UN CHRONICLE

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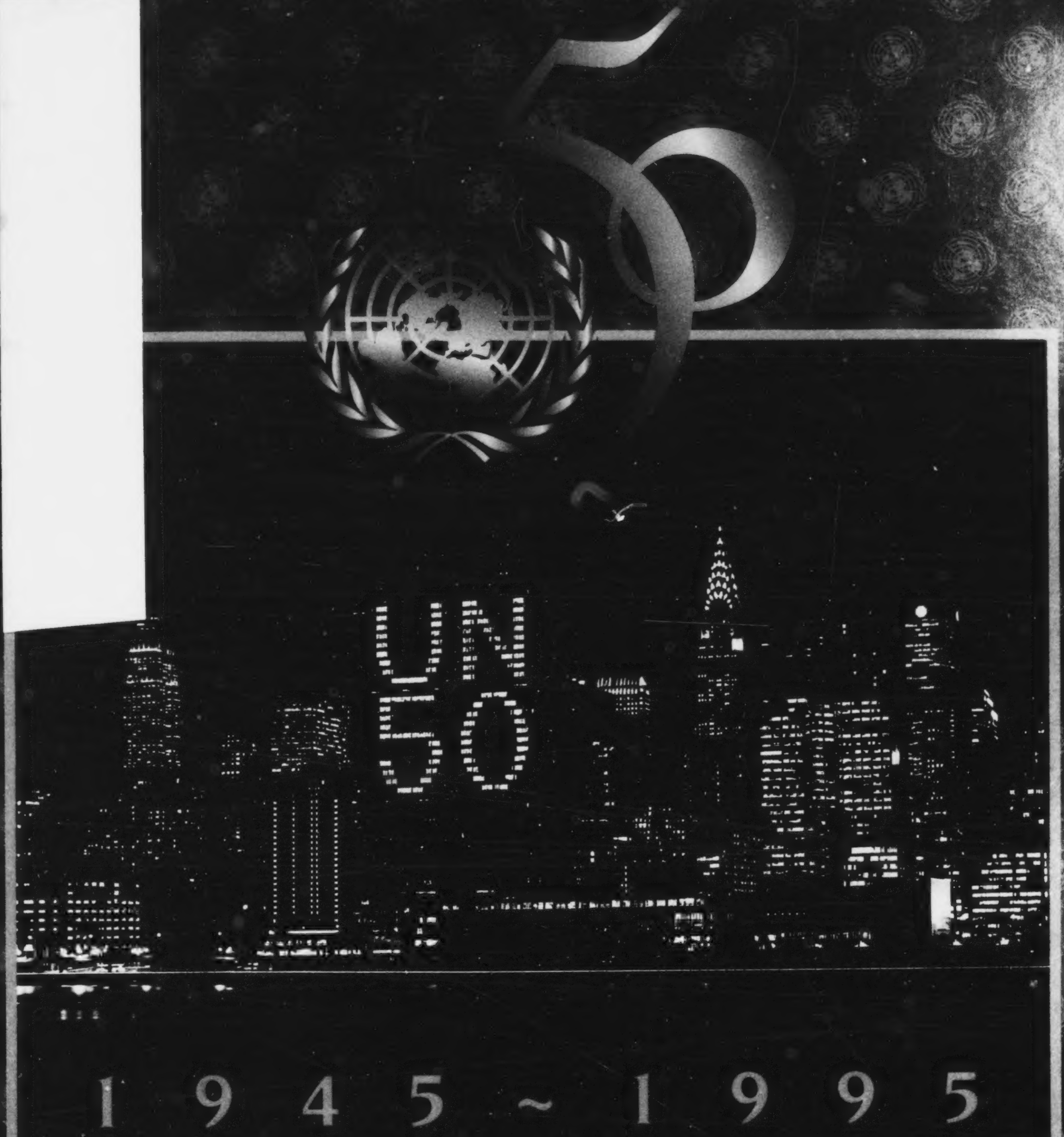
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OUR COVER

A vision of peace ...

Five decades ago, in the waning days of the Second World War, the Charter of the United Nations was unanimously adopted in the beautiful Pacific bay city of San Francisco by 50 nations attending the UN Conference on International Organization. The vision of those founding countries is embodied in the world Organization, whose Headquarters (seen on our cover) has become a Manhattan landmark. But it was in San Francisco where their vision was born, and it is in that city where dignitaries from around the world gathered in June 1995 to commemorate the golden anniversary of the United Nations. "Those men and women from 50 countries who founded the Organization had courage", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared in San Francisco recently. "Courage to look into the worst conflict known to humanity, and to call for peace, human rights and development; courage to assume, for themselves and their successors, the immense task of building the world of the United Nations; courage to assume the burden of the future." The vision and courage of the current 185 Member States should ensure the vitality of the world Organization for the next 50 years and beyond.

Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar

Editor-in-Chief Betty Flynn-Connors

Editorial Staff
Zarine Nandan, Writer/Deputy Editor
Sergei Vinogradov, Writer
Russell Taylor, Writer

Editorial Assistants Herminia N. Roque, Lynn Lynn Thway,
Geraldine Y. Velandria, Teresita Q. Victoria

Production Staff Laura Frischeisen, Chief Typesetter
Marc Chalamet, French Edition
Laslo Cheffolway, Design
Fernando Astete, Printing Officer

Contributors Elsa B. Endrst, Nancy Seufert-Barr

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UN CHRONICLE

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An age-old dream...

The statement of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 26 June at the San Francisco ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter:

The United Nations expresses the age-old dream of universal cooperation. We are here to renew this dream. The blueprint for the world Organization was drawn here in San Francisco 50 years ago. The Charter created here is more than a document of history; it is the foundation stone of international relations.

For five decades, the United Nations has permitted nations to join together to deal with challenges that no single nation can resolve. Universal membership offers a forum for expressing universal ideals. Through the United Nations, the world has enshrined the ideal of sovereign independence—to accommodate the emergence of new States and to secure the dignity of their peoples. Fifty-one Member States ratified the Charter of the United Nations in 1945. Since then, millions of the world's citizens won the right to determine their destiny as independent nations. Today, the United Nations comprises 185 Member States. Decolonization utterly changed the international landscape, and could have led to chaos. But through the United Nations, the framework of international relations survived—and was strengthened by—this profound transformation.

At the United Nations, peoples took their first steps as States on the international stage. Within the United Nations, they could assume their rightful place and gain recognition as legitimate members of the world community.

Through the United Nations, the world has embraced the ideals of peace and security—to preserve the integrity of States and to project the lives of their peoples. The concept of peace-keeping is not explicit in the Charter, but the Charter proved flexible enough to respond when the need for such missions arose. Peace-keeping is a manifestation of the world's capacity to work together. For both troop-contributing countries and the lands that they serve, United Nations peace operations reinforce the ideal of international solidarity in the face of conflict. Peace-keeping operations have proven their practical importance. They can monitor compliance with the terms of an agreement. They can give combatants the time and encouragement to pursue lasting peace. They can provide humanitarian relief. And, in the context of new forms of conflict, they can help to reconstruct entire societies.

Through the United Nations, the world has pledged itself to the ideal of development—to advance the prosperity of States and the welfare of their peoples. Working through the United Nations, the world's peoples have framed a vision for global development. They have forged a consensus about the rights that belong to all humanity.

Through the United Nations, strategies have been devised to realize this vision. An understanding of the common interest between North and South has grown. The advancement of women as the key to nearly every issue of development is becoming understood. Ways to approach the complex new problems of the planet are urgently being found.

Five decades are a brief moment in history. Yet, since 1945, a new reality of global cooperation has taken shape, based on the Charter that was framed here in San Francisco. Today, the world is accepting the ideals of democracy. Democratization can balance the individual's need for identity with the need for a workable international system: it can help to prevent conflict; it is vital for development. The United Nations is helping States express the ideal of democracy, and find practical ways of attaining it. We are the custodians of the dream of global cooperation. We will not let it perish. As long as people seek national identities; as long as people seek protection from aggression; and as long as people yearn for a better world for their children, the United Nations will endure, and it will succeed. ■

Golden anniversary of UN celebrated in city of its birth

We the peoples of the United Nations determined to prevent future generations from the scourge of war . . . do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

— from the Preamble to the United Nations Charter

The stage of the Herbst Theatre—site of the 50th anniversary observance of the Charter signing. The Scarborough School Concert Choir of Canada was among the groups that participated.

UN Photo 189764/E. Schneider

by Nancy Seufert-Barr

On 26 June 1995, half a century after United States President Harry Truman called on delegates from 50 war-weary nations to "be the architects of a better world", an array of dignitaries from around the globe gathered at the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial Building's Herbst Theatre to celebrate the golden anniversary of the United Nations.

UN Photo

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and United States President Clinton greet one another in the San Francisco Opera House, in front of a mural depicting the original Charter signing.

> *"Fifty years ago, the world was weary of war, tired of poverty, and burdened by injustice. The United Nations was born to reject a culture of death and to create a culture of life, a culture of peace."*
>
> —Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

"The blueprint for the world Organization was drawn here in San Francisco 50 years ago", said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali from the stage of the historic theatre where, on the same date in 1945, the UN Charter was signed and the world Organization was born. "The Charter created here is more than a document of history; it is the foundation stone of international relations."

Since 1945, a new reality of global cooperation has taken shape, based on the Charter, said Mr. Boutros-Ghali, standing before a vibrant blue backdrop adorned with the United Nations seal, which is little changed from the original symbol designed for the founding conference five decades ago. "We are the custodians of the dream of global cooperation. We will not let it perish. As long as people seek national identities; as long as people seek protection from aggression; and as long as people yearn for a better world for their children, the United Nations will endure, and it will succeed."

At the podium, in front of which was displayed in a lighted case the original copy of the UN Charter, United States President Bill Clinton gave a resounding "Yes, to the dream of the United Nations", but also asserted: "Today's UN must be ready to handle tomorrow's problems."

"We must all remember that the United Nations is a reflection of the world it represents. Therefore, it will remain far from perfect. It will not be able to solve all problems, but even those it cannot solve it may well be able to limit in terms of the scope and reach of the problem, and it may well be able to limit the loss of human life until the time for solution comes", Mr. Clinton stressed to the gathering.

Among the dignitaries assembled were the 185 current Ambassadors to the UN, Poland's President Lech Walesa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and some original members of delegation to the 1945 conference.

"So I say especially to the opponents of the United Nations here in the United States, turning our back on the UN and going it alone will lead to far more economic, political and military burdens on our people in the future and would ignore the lessons of our own history", said Mr. Clinton, whose speech concluded the commemoration ceremony. "Instead, on this 50th anniversary of the Charter's signing, let us renew our vow to live together as good neighbours."

Creating the Charter

That vow had been at the heart of the drive for collective security which resulted in the convening of the original United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) on 25 April 1945. Over the following two months, in an atmosphere shadowed by the tail-end of the Second World War and the recent death of United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, UNCIO delegates spent hundreds of hours hammering out agreements which culminated in the unanimous approval of the United Nations Charter on 26 June 1945, including the Preamble, drafted by American poet Archibald MacLeish, among others.

That day, said General Assembly President Amara Essy of Côte d'Ivoire in his address to the anniversary celebration, "was a day of hope. The world was rising from the long

UN Photo 189736/E. Schneider

At left, former Ambassador Minerva Bernadino of the Dominican Republic—a signatory of the 1945 Charter—receiving a medal from the Secretary-General.

night of war. The veterans of that war were gathered in this room. Today, too, is a day of hope. We ourselves are veterans of another war, the cold war. We too must be the architects of a better world. Fifty years on, the future is once again in our hands."

The UN Charter, "conceived at Saint James' Palace in London, nourished out on the high seas, shaped in Washington, Moscow, Teheran, Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta, and given final form in San Francisco, was designed to usher in a peaceful, just and prosperous world, a world founded no longer on force but on law", Mr. Essy said.

"On this day 50 years ago, 51 flags floated over San Francisco. Today, 185 national emblems salute us—dazzling proof that the architects of the Charter were not mistaken. Their vision of freedom inspired the vast process of decolonization in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. And today we stand here as equal representatives of every continent on the globe."

Parade of Ambassadors

The commemoration opened with a procession of the 185 current UN Ambassadors, who solemnly strode to their seats, accompanied by a marching band, with the names of their nations scrolling on the big blue screen above the stage.

Amidst the speeches and musical performances by the San Francisco Opera and France's Opera de Lyon orchestra, the blue screen behind the stage came alive with a nostalgic multi-media journey through the 50-year history of the UN, with commentary by television personality Walter Cronkite.

Archbishop Tutu gave the benediction and American poet Maya Angelou read a poem she composed especially for the event, entitled *"A Brave and Startling Truth" (see page 6)*.

UN Photo 189761/E. Schneider

Dedicating the new United Nations Plaza in San Francisco.

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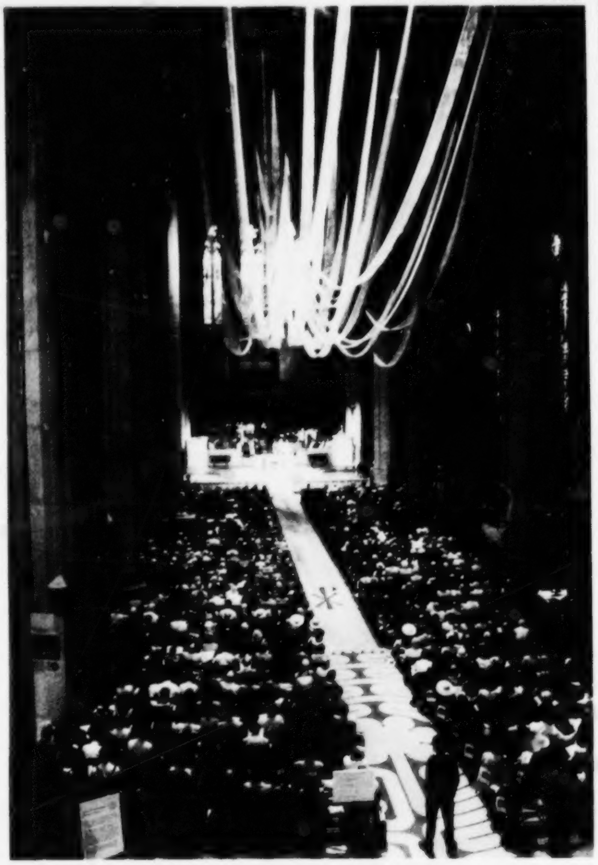


An inter-faith service at Grace Cathedral—one of the many celebratory events held during June in San Francisco.

Following the ceremony, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali had a 30-minute meeting with President Clinton and then attended a civic luncheon at San Francisco's Moscone Center.

"Enhancing peace, achieving progress towards development, promoting human rights, advancing international law—these were the goals of those who created the United Nations", said Mr. Boutros-Ghali in a keynote address to the luncheon. "They are the goals today. The United Nations helps its Member States achieve these objectives in ways that no other institution can."

Earlier the same day, the Secretary-General attended the dedication of a new United Nations Plaza at the San Francisco Civic Center. Created to serve as a permanent reminder of the history that was made in that city 50 years ago, the Plaza features granite paving-stone panels engraved with the Charter Preamble and UN seal, as well as the names of UN member nations and text from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Describing the Plaza as "a composition of stones and trees and sky", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said at the ceremony: "Designed by the human mind, graced by the glory of nature, and open to the universal sphere, this place calls upon us to build upon the best that has gone before, to preserve the life which our planet provides, and never to abandon the vision of a better world which the United Nations—created in this city—is intended to achieve."

The 26 June anniversary events capped two months of festivities in San Francisco, ranging from serious debates with noted dignitaries to gala cultural performances. On 25 June, a forum of Nobel Laureates, "Visions of Peace", convened at the Herbst Theatre to offer their view of the UN role in the next 50 years.

The public forum featured such Nobel Peace Prize winners as Archbishop Tutu, who got the award in 1984; Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica in 1987; President Walesa of Poland, the recipient in 1983; and Betty Williams from Northern Ireland in 1976.

NGO forum

The historic Herbst Theatre was also the site of a major three-day meeting (21-24 June) of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), entitled "We the People: Civil Society and the UN". A unique mix of UN personnel, early leaders and founders of the United Nations, activists and academics gathered to review the critical role that citizen groups played in the founding of the UN, their important contributions over the past 50 years and opportunities to build partnerships for the future.

An assortment of 42 citizen groups—including the American Association of University Women, American Federation of Labor, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, League of Women Voters, and Rotary International—served as consultants to the delegates attending the 1945 conference that laid the groundwork for the UN. Today, thousands of NGOs from around the world are accredited to the UN, which is in the midst of an effort to update and deepen their integration into the daily work of the Organization.

"Today we are searching for an international system that is acceptable to all", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said in an address to the NGO gathering in San Francisco on 24 June. "In order for every woman and every man in the world to perceive their true stake in the great ideals of the world Organization, it is necessary to have many more institutions such as yours. Only thus shall we be faithful to the urgent exhortation with which the preamble to the Charter begins: We the peoples of the United Nations."

On 25 June, the Secretary-General opened the Forum on the Reform and Renewal of the UN, also at the Herbst Theatre, which drew together authors, scholars and policy leaders, to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the Organization and begin work on a "white paper" containing their findings, conclusions and recommendations to best revitalize the UN.

Calling for the colloquium to keep in mind the principles of ideas, realism, consensus, a sense of history, the contemporary political context and the nature of progress in shaping their recommendations, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that the UN had not only evolved gradually over time, but also there had been times when Member States had summoned the will to make major changes. "Such a time may be before us again", he said. "The ongoing, incremental process may be combined with a comprehensive vision of the farther future."

The San Francisco events were a prelude to the fiftieth anniversary programme planned at UN Headquarters in New York for this fall, which will culminate in a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly from 22 to 24 October 1995. It was on 24 October 1945 that the UN Charter came into force upon ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatory States. ■

A Brave and Startling Truth

By Maya Angelou

We, this people, on a small and lonely planet
Travelling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent suns
To a destination where all signs tell us
It is possible and imperative that we learn
A brave and startling truth

And when we come to it
To the day of peacemaking
When we release our fingers
From fists of hostility
And allow the pure air to cool our palms

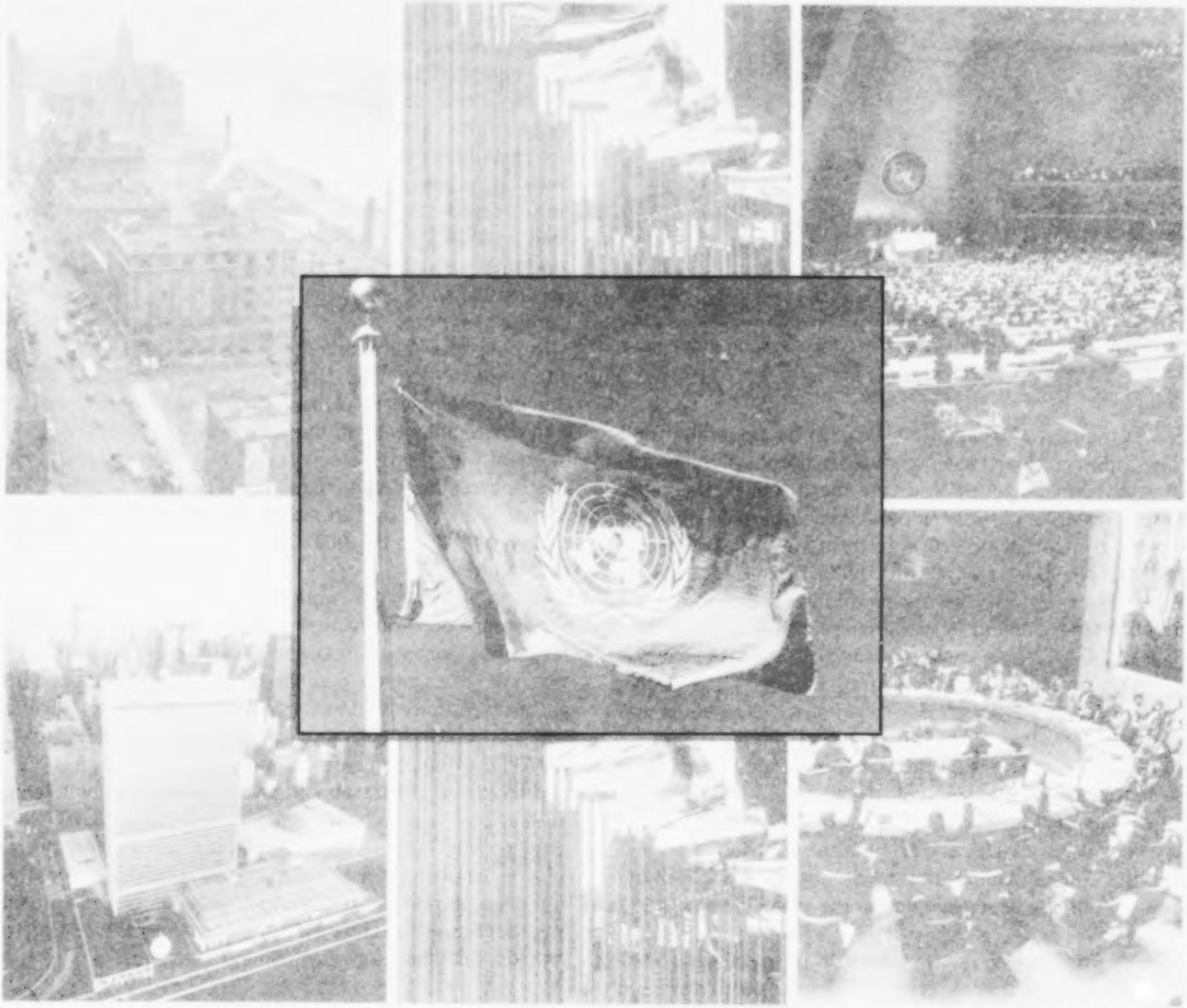
When we come to it
When the curtain falls on the minstrel show of hate
And faces sooted with scorn are scrubbed clean
When battlefields and coliseum
No longer rake our unique and particular
sons and daughters
Up with the bruised and bloody grass
To lie in identical plots in foreign soil

When the rapacious storming of the churches
The screaming racket in the temples have ceased
When the pennants are waving gaily
When the banners of the world tremble
Stoutly in the good, clean breeze . . .

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it

—Excerpted from her poem composed
for the 50th anniversary of the
signing of the UN Charter

Giving Peace a Chance



Top left, before the UN, at Turtle Bay; *bottom left*, UN Headquarters; *top right*, General Assembly Hall; *bottom right*, Security Council.

Recognizing the Achievements

The United Nations was established during the fiery, final hours of the world's most devastating conflict to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war", and give peace a more solid foundation on which to flourish. Over the next five decades, the world Organization pursued its noble Charter goals in many areas—disarmament, decolonization, protection of human rights, respect for international law, and promotion of social progress and better standards of living for all the world's citizens.

KEEPING THE PEACE

More than 720,000 troops—12,000 of whom died on duty—have served in UN peace-keeping forces since 1948.

Over the past 47 years, UN peace-keeping operations by their presence alone have prevented hundreds of thousands of deaths and casualties. Normally, these operations—in the form of observer missions or peace-keeping forces—fulfil the role of an impartial, objective third party to help create and maintain a cease-fire and form a buffer zone between conflicting States. UN peace-keeping efforts have proven to be an important element in preventing local or regional conflicts from widening, and in providing a barrier to the introduction of outside forces. In recent years, UN peace-keeping forces have also been called on to fulfil a humanitarian role—ensuring the delivery of food and life-sustaining supplies to starving, suffering, often embattled citizens of strife-torn countries.

"An Agenda for Peace", the Secretary-General's ground-breaking report, called for at the historic 31 January 1992 Security Council Summit, sets out proposals dealing with the new role of UN peace-keeping in the post-cold-war era.

The first—and still-existing—UN peace-keeping operation is the observer mission headquartered in Jerusalem—the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), established in May 1948.

Since 1948, the United Nations has mounted nearly 40 peace-keeping operations on four continents. Among the larger efforts have been in the Congo (now Zaire), Cambodia, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia. Currently, there are 16 operations at work involving nearly 70,000 personnel.

In the last decade, the UN has assisted some 45 countries—including Angola, Cambodia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Haiti, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa—in holding free and fair elections, through education campaigns, providing polling observers and verifying results. In helping nations to promote democratic foundations, the UN continues to be a major force for global stability.

DISARMAMENT

In signing the UN Charter, the 51 founding Members of the United Nations committed themselves to maintain international peace and security, and to promote that purpose "with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources". Specific responsibilities for disarmament rest primarily with the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The first resolution adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly—resolution 1(I) of 24 January 1946—dealt with disarmament. By it, the Assembly established a body to "deal with the problems raised by discovery of atomic energy and other related matters." The Atomic Energy Commission was joined by the Commission for Conventional Armaments in 1947 as the first UN bodies to deal solely with disarmament.

Closely linked to the work of the UN is the 40-member Conference on Disarmament—the world's only multilateral negotiating forum for arms control—and its predecessor bodies, which have negotiated controls on a wide spectrum of dangerous weaponry worldwide, including: the partial nuclear test ban treaty (1963), the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (1970), the ban on nuclear weapons on the sea-bed (1971), and biological (1972), and chemical weapons bans (1992).

The General Assembly has convened three special sessions on disarmament (1978, 1982 and 1988). The Disarmament Commission, composed of all Member States, was reconstituted after the 1978 session to provide guidelines for disarmament measures.

UN peace-keeping mandates have recently included disarmament tasks, as in El Salvador and Angola, where warring factions have been required, in order to fulfil peace agreements, to lay down their arms under UN supervision. The Special Commission on disarmament in Iraq has overseen the complicated requirements of the UN-secured cease-fire which ended the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

To lessen the threat of nuclear war, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conducts regular inspections of nuclear reactors in 90 countries so that nuclear materials are not diverted for military purposes.

The UN is leading an international campaign to clear land mines from former battlefields, where these unexploded, hidden weapons continue to kill and maim thousands of innocent persons.

REFUGEES ... HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

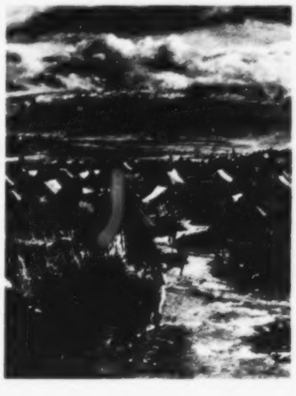
Humanitarian operations, in particular aid to the millions of refugees who have suffered from the ravages of war over the past five decades, have been a major UN undertaking since the Organization's initial efforts to help victims of the Second World War. The International Children's Emergency Fund was created in 1946 to meet emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China; it became the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1953.

Refugee children of war, Belgium, 1946.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in 1950 to protect refugees and promote durable solutions to their problems. It has won the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and 1981. The UN in 1981 and 1984 sponsored two international conferences (ICARA I and II) for the benefit of millions of refugees of Africa, which continues to have the largest number of refugees in the world. Other conferences have been held, for example, for those in Central America.

A new UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs was created in 1992 to coordinate emergency assistance for natural and man-made disasters. In 1994, the UN provided such aid to more than 40 million people in some 20 countries.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has, since 1949, provided education and training, health and relief services, and continues to do so during the transition to self-government currently under way. There are nearly 3 million refugees in the Middle East served by UNRWA.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

One of the first major achievements of the UN was the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations". Over the years, the Organization has continued to set standards and monitor implementation of global instruments in this field, through the work of the Commission on Human Rights, other bodies and Special Rapporteurs.

In 1966, two major Covenants on human rights were approved by the General Assembly—one on civil and political rights, the other covering economic, social and cultural rights. They came into force in 1976. Together with the Universal Declaration, they are known as the "International Bill of Rights".

Declarations and conventions on many aspects of human rights—including those on racial discrimination, religious belief, torture, prostitution, slavery, genocide, refugees, women, prisoners, workers, children, stateless persons, war victims, the disabled, the elderly, migrants, non-citizens, indigenous peoples—have been adopted as a result of UN efforts.

World conferences on human rights have been held in Teheran (1968) and most recently in Vienna (1993) where the UN reaffirmed its commitment to safeguard human rights on a global scale through the adoption of a special Declaration and Programme of Action.

A long term UN objective has been to improve the status of women and empower women in all aspects of their daily lives. Four major UN world conferences have set an agenda for the advancement of women and women's rights for the rest of the century. A UN Decade for Women was observed from 1975 to 1985. The UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) support projects to improve the quality of life for women in over 100 countries.

APARTHEID AND RACISM

In 1952, the General Assembly overrode South African objections to its considering the question of apartheid, an action that spearheaded its ongoing efforts to fight a system of racism which the Assembly has identified as a "crime against humanity". In 1962, the Assembly established a body—later known as the Special Committee against Apartheid—which reviewed all aspects of South Africa's apartheid policies and their international repercussions, and worked tirelessly for their end.

In 1973, the Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Transnational corporations' involvement in southern Africa was scrutinized by the UN, and economic, as well as cultural and military, embargoes instituted by the UN are considered to have made significant contributions to ending apartheid. In 1981, the UN held a global conference to further sanctions against South Africa. The world Organization contributed in other ways as well. The UN Trust Fund for South Africa provided legal aid to persons prosecuted under the apartheid system. A UN Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa helped victims of the racist system.

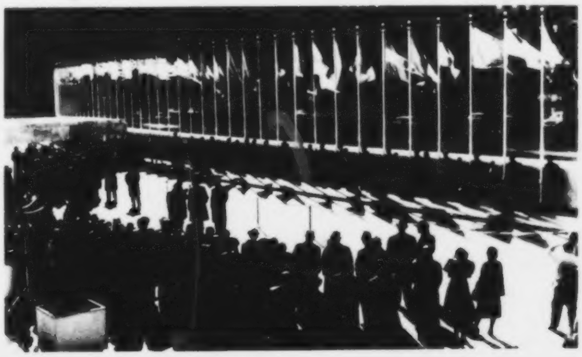
In April 1994, the UN Observer Mission in South Africa, with the assistance of the Organization of African Unity, oversaw the first non-racial democratic elections in South Africa, after a complex process of negotiation which led to the end of the odious racist system of apartheid. Today, Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years inside the Robben Island prison for political opposition to apartheid, is President of the non-racial Government of South Africa.

Discrimination of all kinds is a continuing target for UN action. In 1969, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination entered into force, and an expert committee meets every year to monitor its implementation. Special efforts have been made, through the adoption of declarations and other legal instruments, to curb religious intolerance and other forms of discrimination. The UN Year for Tolerance was observed in 1995.

Dividing blacks from whites was the essence of apartheid.

DECOLONIZATION

In 1945, some 750 million people—nearly a third of the world's population at that time—lived in dependent territories. Today, that number has dwindled to 1.5 million. Decolonization efforts over the past five decades at the UN have promoted independence for scores of former colonies and dependent territories, now proud members of the UN.



Raising the flag at the UN is a momentous occasion for a new nation.

The job has been done so well that only a handful of non-self-governing territories are now monitored by the UN. Under Chapter XI of the UN Charter, their status is carefully monitored by the General Assembly's Special Committee on decolonization. In 1995, there are 17 such territories; most are tiny islands, concentrated in the Pacific or Caribbean.

The Charter's original Trusteeship System oversaw the status of 11 territories which had either been held under mandates from the League of Nations, been detached from "enemy States" as a result of the Second World War, or voluntarily placed themselves under the System. The five-member Trusteeship Council for 49 years oversaw the process of self-determination for these territories.

In 1960—as 17 newly independent nations, 16 of them African, joined the United Nations—the General Assembly adopted the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which states that colonialism is a denial of basic human rights and which calls for its swift end.

The independence in 1990 of Namibia, the former German colony of South-West Africa, was a major achievement of UN efforts in this field.

In 1994, the last remaining entity of the original International Trusteeship System—created under Chapter XII of the UN Charter—attained independence, fulfilling the UN mandate in its entirety when the island-nation of Palau, formerly part of Micronesia, became the 185th Member State of the United Nations in December 1994.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Preamble to the UN Charter called for the creation of conditions "under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained". Article 1 of the Charter calls for the adjustment and settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. Since the Organization's inception, then, respect for and strengthening of international law has been a major pillar of its structure.

The International Court of Justice—known as the World Court—is located at The Hague, the Netherlands. Its 15 judges, known as members of the Court, are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Over the years, the Court has considered 95 cases and issued 60 judgements and 284 orders. Disputes on territorial issues, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, diplomatic relations, hostage-taking, the right of asylum and economic rights have been among the issues considered.

The codification of international law continues through the work of the Assembly's Sixth Committee, the International Law Commission and the UN Commission on International Trade Law, among other bodies. More than 300 international treaties have been enacted through the effors of the UN over the last 50 years. Recently, international tribunals on genocide in Rwanda and in the former Yugoslavia have been constituted. An international criminal court is under consideration.

Law of the Sea

In 1958, the first UN Conference on the Law of the Sea convened and adopted four landmark Conventions. In 1970, the General Assembly approved the first internationally agreed set of principles on the vast area of the seabed and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction. The first principle declares the area to be the "common heritage" of humanity. In 1982, after nine years of complex and painstaking work, a conference convened by the General Assembly adopted the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It entered into force in 1994. Another historic treaty—to regulate overfishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction—was approved in August 1995.

Space

In the wake of the launching of the first space satellite— "Sputnik"—by the Soviet Union in 1957, the General Assembly took an interest in this new frontier of mankind. It established a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1959. Subsequently, a new body of law has been elaborated to cover the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. Work on scientific, technical and legal aspects of outer space endeavours is reviewed annually by the General Assembly. The UN has held two global conferences on space matters and oversees a wide range of activities in this area.

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT

The UN Charter calls for the promotion of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development—goals pursued with zeal and precision over the years by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and a host of other UN agencies and organizations.

Over the last 50 years, an extraordinary combination of efforts has been taken under the UN banner to better the lives of the world's poor and vulnerable—estimated at more than two thirds of the world's nearly 6 billion people—as well as to improve the quality of life for every individual on earth. Today, a major part of UN resources are spent in ways to meet the Charter's development goals.

In 1961, acknowledging that economic and social development in the less developed areas of the world is basic to achieving international peace and security, the General Assembly declared the 1960s as the first UN Development Decade; it has been followed by decades for the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. International development strategies for each decade were also approved, calling for measures to assist developing countries and establishing targets for official development assistance. The Secretary-General's recent "Agenda for Development" sets out a framework for action in this broad and multifaceted area of concern for the UN.

In 1949, the United Nations launched the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to help economic and social development in poorer countries. Ten years later, a Special Fund was established by the General Assembly to work in tandem with the Expanded Programme to help developing countries attract private and public capital.

In 1965, the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund were combined to form the world's largest multilateral aid delivery system, the UN Development Programme (UNDP),

A refugee camp in Africa.

which has become a major channel of funding for UN specialized agencies, playing an important coordinating role and extending a network of "resident representatives".

The Assembly in 1974 called for a new international economic world order and in 1975 adopted the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Special sessions of the Assembly on economic matters were held in 1974, 1975 and 1980. The world body is continuing efforts to promote international economic development, with specific emphasis on raw materials, energy, trade, development, and money and finance.

In the early 1980s, serious UN development efforts were focused on Africa, in the throes of widespread drought, famine and other economic and social ills. In 1986, the General Assembly adopted a five-year Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. Its follow-up was the 1991 UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa. Continuing efforts to marshal cooperation action to revitalize that continent's future are a major concern of the UN in the 1990s.

World conferences held under UN auspices over the years have dealt with such development-related topics as: environment, population, food, human settlements, desertification, water resources, technical cooperation among developing countries, science and technology for development, agrarian reform and rural development, new and renewable sources of energy, and the problems of least developed countries.

UN-sponsored international decades, years and conferences have highlighted the needs of often vulnerable groups, including women, children, the family, youth, the elderly, the homeless, the disabled and indigenous peoples.

The five UN regional commissions and the 18 specialized agencies—important members of the UN family—are major players in the Organization's contribution to global development. Non-governmental organizations support UN work in many areas.

And the campaign continues: In September 1995, the fourth World Conference on Women will take place in Beijing, China; in 1996, the International Year on the Eradication of Poverty, the convening of HABITAT II—the second world conference on human settlements—and an FAO-sponsored Food Summit.

Channelling resources

The World Bank group—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency—and the International Monetary Fund work in different ways to raise standards of living in developing countries by channelling financial resources to those countries.

Improving global trade

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has worked to obtain special trade preferences for developing countries to export their products to developed countries. It has also negotiated international commodities agreements to ensure fair prices for developing countries. And through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)—replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO)—and the International Trade Centre, the UN supports ways to increase economic development opportunities in developing countries.

Industrializing the globe

The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has served as a "matchmaker" for North-South, South-South and East-West investment, promoting entrepreneurship and self-reliance, industrial cooperation and technology transfer, and cost-effective, ecologically-sensitive industry.

Better food and farming

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked to raise levels of nutrition and improve food production techniques and crop yield. Its wide-ranging programmes aim to improve soils and seeds, crop harvests, plant genetic resources, fertilizers and pesticides, as well as to deal with animal diseases, aquaculture, energy, remote sensing for natural resources, and prevention of food losses. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Food Council are other UN bodies that work in this field.

ENVIRONMENT

The United Nations has played a vital role in fashioning a global response to threats to the world's environment. The "Earth Summit", the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, adopted "Agenda 21"—a blueprint to promote sustainable development or the concept of economic growth while protecting natural resources. Two new important global pacts—to safeguard biological diversity (1992) and combat desertification (1994)—are among measures being taken by the UN to help preserve the world's oceans, forests and land masses, and conserve its animal and plant resources.

Experts from more than 50 countries in 1950 attended the UN Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources. UN committees on natural resources and energy have operated for many years. The first UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972, declared the need for new principles to govern human activities in order to safeguard the natural world and called for the establishment of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), now headquartered in Nairobi.

"Earthwatch" is a global UNEP programme to monitor pollution of the world's seas, land and atmosphere. Through the "World Weather Watch", the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) also contributes significantly to environmental monitoring.

UNEP and WMO have helped increase awareness of the damaged ozone layer, its causes and effects. Through adoption of the 1987 Montreal Protocol to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, a global effort has been launched to reduce chemical emissions to protect the ozone layer and lessen global warming. The effort may spare millions from increased risk of cancer and other disease from intensified ultraviolet radiation.

The UN has worked to counteract the calamitous effects of both natural and man-made disasters. A World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was convened by the UN in Yokohama, Japan, in May 1993, as part of the International Decade for Disaster Reduction. A WMO early warning system, using thousands of surface monitors and satellites, has provided information on the dispersal of oil spills and has predicted long-term droughts. The system has allowed for the efficient distribution of food aid to drought regions, such as southern Africa in 1992.

IMPROVING OUR DAILY LIVES

In 1969, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which stressed the need for a unified approach to economic and social planning to promote balanced and sound development. Better services in such fields as health, education and employment are being sought worldwide.

● *Health*

The World Health Organization (WHO), on a multitude of fronts, has improved the health of millions—eradicating smallpox, immunizing the world's children, fighting malaria and parasitic disease, promoting simple lives. A new global HIV/AIDS programme aims to fight the world's newest deadly pandemic.

● *Improving the workplace*

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has worked to guarantee: the right to association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, employment and equal remuneration, and the elimination of discrimination and child labour. And by setting safety standards, ILO has helped reduce the toll of work-related accidents.

● *Fighting drug abuse*

The UN International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has worked to reduce demand for illicit drugs and suppress drug trafficking, and has helped farmers reduce their economic reliance on growing narcotic crops by shifting farm production toward other dependable sources of income. A UN conference on illicit trafficking in 1987 adopted a comprehensive Declaration and Programme of Action.

● *Crime*

Since 1955, international Crime Congresses have been held under UN auspices every five years. The ninth Congress was held in Cairo in 1995. The UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control formulated guidelines in such areas as treatment of prisoners, juvenile delinquency, use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials, and the role of lawyers and prosecutors. International and regional seminars are also regularly organized. Crime is one of the social problems dealt with by the UN Research Institute for Social Development.

● *Reducing population growth*

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), through its family planning programmes, has enabled people to make informed choices and consequently given families, and especially women, greater control over their lives. As a result, women in developing countries are now having fewer children—from six births per woman in the 1960s to 3.5 today. In the 1960s, only 10 per cent of the world's families were using effective methods of family planning. The number now stands at 55 per cent.

● *Communicating globally*

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) sets guidelines to maintain and regulate international mail deliveries. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) coordinates use of the radio spectrum, promotes cooperation in assigning positions for stationary satellites, and establishes international standards for communications. Transportation and communications decades and international meetings on ways to improve the basic infrastructure of developing countries are a basic contribution of the UN in these areas.

● *Improving literacy and education*

Due to UN efforts, more than 60 per cent of adults in developing countries now read and write, and 80 per cent of children in those countries attend school. Programmes for women helped raise the female literacy rate in developing countries from 36 per cent in 1970 to 56 per cent in 1990.

● *Safer air and sea travel*

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has contributed to making air travel the safest mode of transportation. Over the last two decades, pollution from tankers has been reduced by as much as 60 per cent, thanks to the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which also adopts international standards for maritime safety.

● *Preserving historic sites*

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has overseen the preservation of historic cultural sites worldwide, including the temples of Nubia, Borobudur and Angkor Wat, the architecture of Venice, the Grand Canyon, Machu Piccu, and Kilimanjaro National Park. Some 300 historic sites are registered on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List, now protected through UN efforts.

● *Facilitating research and cultural exchanges*

Through UNESCO, the UN Training and Research Institute (UNITAR) and the United Nations University (UNU), scientific cooperation is promoted internationally. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) maintains a register of nearly 3 million national trademarks and, through treaties, protects the works of artists, composers and authors worldwide.

The UN and the Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded five times to the UN and its organizations:

1954 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for its assistance to European refugees.

1965 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for helping save the lives of the world's children.

1969 International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva, for its progress in establishing workers' rights and protections.

1981 UNHCR, for assistance to Asian refugees.

1988 United Nations peace-keeping forces, for their work worldwide.

The Peace Prize has also been awarded to individuals involved in the work of the UN:

1945 Cordel Hull, former United States Secretary of State, for his leadership in establishing the UN.

1949 Lord John Boyd Orr, United Kingdom, first Director-General of the FAO.

1950 Ralph Bunche, United States, UN Mediator in Palestine, for his leadership in the armistice agreements signed in 1949 by Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

1957 Lester Pearson, former Secretary of State of Canada and General Assembly President, for a lifetime of work for peace and for leading UN efforts to resolve the Suez Canal crisis.

1961 Dag Hammarskjöld, Sweden, Secretary-General of the UN, for helping settle the Congo crisis.

1974 Sean Macbride, Ireland, UN Commissioner for Namibia.

Milestones:
A selective chronology

Inter-Allied Declaration

Signed in London on 12 June 1941, the Inter-Allied Declaration—"to work together, with other free peoples, both in war and peace"—was a first step towards the establishment of the United Nations.

Atlantic Charter

On 14 August 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt of the United States and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom proposed a set of principles for international collaboration in maintaining peace and security. The document, signed during a meeting on the ship *HMS Prince of Wales*, "somewhere at sea", is known as the Atlantic Charter.

Declaration by United Nations

On 1 January 1942, representatives of 26 Allied nations fighting against the Axis Powers met in Washington, D.C. to pledge their support for the Atlantic Charter by signing the "Declaration by United Nations". This document contained the first official use of the term "United Nations", which was suggested by President Roosevelt.

Moscow and Teheran Conferences

In a declaration signed in Moscow on 30 October 1943, the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and China called for an early establishment of an international organization to maintain peace and security. That goal was reaffirmed at the meeting of the leaders of the United States, the USSR, and the United Kingdom at Teheran on 1 December 1943.

Dumbarton Oaks Conference

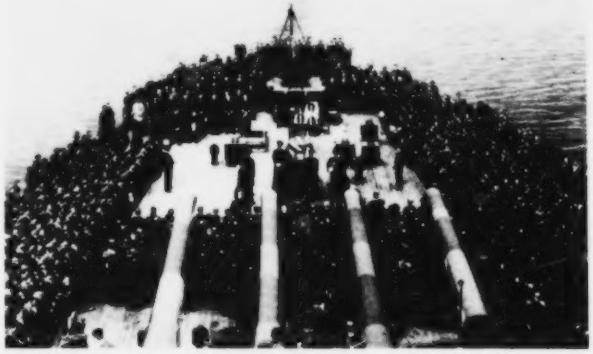
The first blueprint of the UN was prepared at a conference held at a mansion known as Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. During two phases of meetings which ran from 21 September through 7 October 1944, the United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR and China agreed on the aims, structure and functioning of a world organization.

Yalta Conference

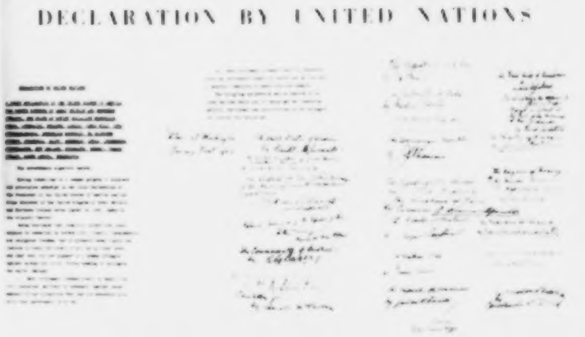
On 11 February 1945, following meetings at Yalta, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Joseph Stalin declared their resolve to establish "a general international organization to maintain peace and security".

San Francisco Conference

On 25 April 1945, delegates of 50 nations met in San Francisco for the United Nations Conference on International Organization. The delegates drew up the 111-article Charter, which was adopted unanimously on 25 June 1945 in the San Francisco Opera House. The next day, they signed it in the Herbst Theatre auditorium of the Veterans War Memorial Building.

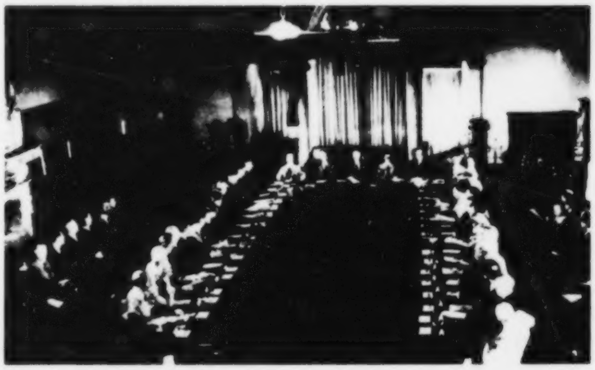


The Atlantic Charter, August 1941, agreed on "somewhere at sea".



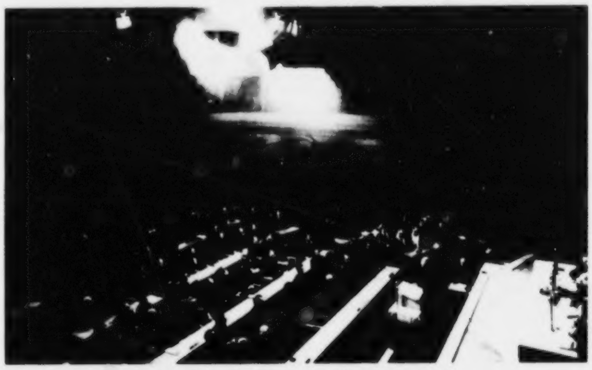
DECLARATION BY UNITED NATIONS

Signed on 1 January 1942.

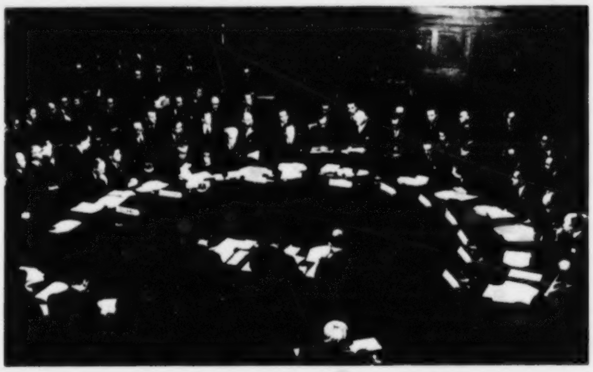


Dumbarton Oaks, 1944.

Adopting the Charter, June 1945.



First General Assembly plenary, 10 January 1946.



First Security Council meeting, 17 January 1946.

Laying the cornerstone, 1949.

Ralph Bunche *(centre)* in Haifa, 1948.

24 October 1945

United Nations is created as its Charter is ratified by the five permanent members of the Security Council and the majority of other signatories, and comes into force.

10 January 1946

First General Assembly, with 51 nations represented, opens in Central Hall, Westminster, London.

17 January 1946

Security Council meets for the first time in London, adopting its rules of procedure.

24 January 1946

General Assembly adopts its first resolution. Its main focus: peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction.

1 February 1946

Trygve Lie of Norway becomes first Secretary-General.

June 1948

First UN observer mission established in Palestine—the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

10 December 1948

General Assembly adopts Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

7 January 1949

A UN envoy, Ralph Bunche, secures cease-fire between the new State of Israel and Arab States.

24 October 1949

Cornerstone laid for present UN Headquarters in New York City.

27 June 1950

Security Council, acting in the absence of the Soviet Union, calls on Member States to help southern part of Korea repel invasion from the north. The Korean Armistice Agreement is signed on 27 July 1953 by the UN Command and the Chinese-North Korean Command.

1 November 1956

First Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly meets on the Suez Canal crisis and, on 5 November, decides to establish the first UN peace-keeping force—the UN Emergency Force (UNEF).

September 1960

17 newly independent States, 16 from Africa, join the UN—the biggest increase in membership in any one year.

MILESTONES

18 September 1961

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld dies in an aircraft crash while on mission to Congo.

7 August 1963

Security Council votes voluntary arms embargo against South Africa.

4 March 1964

Security Council approves dispatch of peace-keeping force to Cyprus.

27 October 1966

General Assembly strips South Africa of its mandate to govern South-West Africa (Namibia).

16 December 1966

Mandatory sanctions are imposed against Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) by the Security Council.

22 November 1967

Following the six-day war in June 1967, the Security Council, after lengthy negotiations, adopts resolution 242 (1967), as the basis for achieving peace in the Middle East.

12 June 1968

General Assembly approves Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and calls for its ratification.

4 January 1969

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination comes into force.

25 October 1971

General Assembly votes to seat representatives of the People's Republic of China.

June 1972

The first UN Environment Conference is held in Stockholm, Sweden, leading to the establishment of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), headquartered in Nairobi.

13 November 1974

General Assembly recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people".

June-July 1975

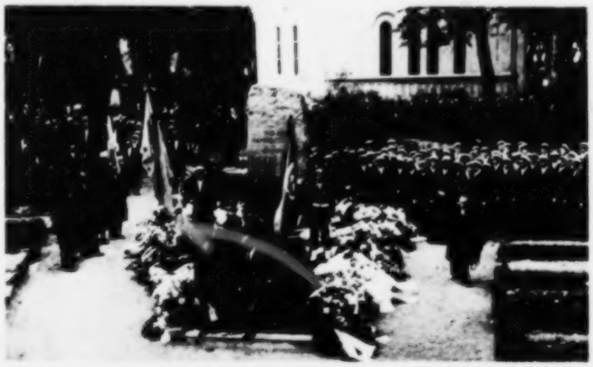
International Women's Year is marked by the first UN conference on women, held in Mexico City.

4 November 1977

Security Council adopts mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

May-June 1978

General Assembly convenes special session, for the first time on disarmament.



Hammarskjöld's funeral, Uppsala, Sweden, 29 September 1961.

Adopting resolution 242 — 22 November 1967.

China takes seat in Assembly, November 1971.

Disarmament demonstration during first special session, June 1978.

Vaccination for smallpox became a thing of the past in 1980.

Visiting Africa during Ethiopian drought, January 1985.

UNTAG
VRYE EN REGVERDIGE VERKIESINGS

The UN organized free elections in Namibia, November 1989.

Children around the world are protected by the 1990 Convention.

18 December 1979

General Assembly adopts the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, covering political, economic, social, cultural and civic values.

8 May 1980

Three years after the last case was reported, World Health Organization (WHO) officially declares smallpox eradicated.

25 November 1981

General Assembly adopts Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

10 December 1982

New UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is signed by 117 States and two entities—the largest number of signatures ever affixed to a treaty on its first day.

December 1984

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar sets up a UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa to help coordinate famine relief efforts.

10 December 1984

General Assembly adopts the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

July 1985

Thousands gather in Nairobi to attend the third UN conference on women, marking the end of the UN Decade for Women.

September 1987

Efforts of UNEP lead to the signing of the Treaty on the Protection of the Ozone Layer—known as the Montreal Protocol—a follow-up to the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Ozone Layer.

April 1989

UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) is deployed throughout Namibia to monitor South Africa's withdrawal and provide electoral assistance. Elections were held in November 1989; Namibia becomes independent on 21 March 1990.

2 September 1990

Convention on the Rights of the Child comes into force.

29 September 1990

The World Summit for Children is convened, attended by 71 Heads of State and Government. A Plan of Action is adopted.

31 May 1991

A cease-fire in the 16-year civil war in Angola is negotiated, then administered by the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

31 December 1991

Agreement signed at UN Headquarters, through the good offices of the Secretary-General, between the Government of El Salvador and FMLN (National Liberation Front) leads to a cease-fire and peace accord after a 12-year war.

31 January 1992

Security Council holds its first summit ever at the level of Heads of State and Government.

June 1992

The UN Conference on Environment and Development—the "Earth Summit"—is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attended by 104 Heads of State or Government and other leaders, the largest intergovernmental gathering in history, resulting in Agenda 21—a plan of action for sustainable development.

17 June 1992

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali issues "*An Agenda for Peace*" on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

May 1993

UN-supervised election in Cambodia lead to the drafting of a new constitution and the establishment of the new government, ending nearly 15 years of strife in the war-torn country. The UN Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea contributes to the declaration of that country's independence and its admission to the UN.

June 1993

The World Conference on Human Rights is held in Vienna, which commemorated the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993).

6 May 1994

The Secretary-General produces a report on "*An Agenda for Development*", a blueprint for improving the human condition.

13 September 1994

The International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo, adopts a landmark Programme of Action.

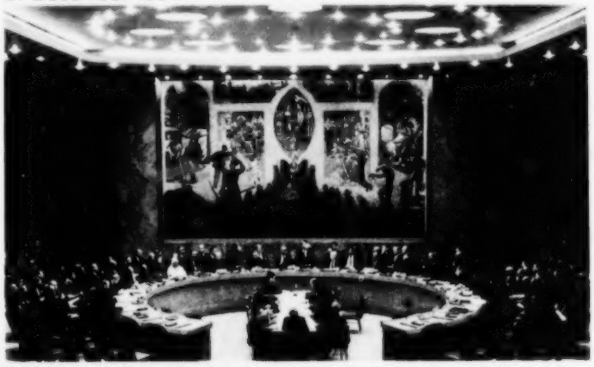
March 1995

The World Summit for Social Development—one of the largest gathering of world leaders in history—meets in Copenhagen to renew the commitment to combating poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.

September 1995

The Fourth World Conference on Women meets in Beijing to continue international efforts to advance the status of women worldwide.

Peace Agreement on Central America signed at Headquarters, 31 December 1991.



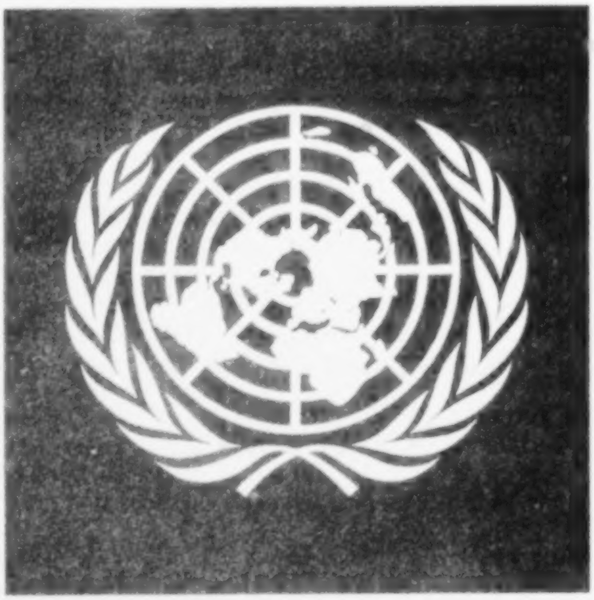
Historic Heads-of-State Security Council, 31 January 1992.

World Human Rights Conference, Vienna, June 1993.

Social Development Summit, Copenhagen, March 1995.

Design for Peace

Origin of the UN Emblem



Donal McLaughlin, Chief of the Graphics Presentation Branch of the United States Office of Strategic Services (OSS) at the end of the Second World War, has written a personal account of his participation in the two-month international conference that preceded the adoption of the United Nations Charter in June 1945. The following excerpts from that memoir focus on the origin of the familiar blue-and-white UN emblem and a backstage view of the Charter signing in the Herbst Theater of the Veterans War Memorial Building, which Mr. McLaughlin helped arrange. Mr. McLaughlin, an architect and a graphic designer was born in 1907 and lives in Garrett Park, Maryland. A graduate of New York City public schools, the Yale School of Architecture and the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, he worked on designs for exhibits for the 1939 New York World's Fair, suburban department stores and the interior design of Tiffany's 57th Street store in Manhattan.

By Donal McLaughlin

Early in 1945, our Presentation Branch was asked by Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. (who became a representative of the United States during the first session of the UN General Assembly) to work on the forthcoming United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO). As Chief of the Graphics Division and Art Director, it was my good fortune to be assigned to design a lapel pin for conference identification.

The design of the lapel pin—which unknown to us then would become the United Nations emblem—had a special meaning and significance for all of us in the Presentation Branch. United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt's idea of a United Nations was being hailed everywhere. Well, maybe not everywhere. But certainly among all liberals. And we were all young liberals.

I invited a brainstorming session so that our whole staff could have a crack at solving the "problem" of the lapel pin. The problem: how to incorporate a pictorial image along with the words, "The United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, 1945" (quite a mouthful) in a one and one-sixteenth-inch-diameter circle. The manufacturer had agreed to make the pin on condition that we use their stock lapel pin in view of the shortage of time. In other words, no odd or irregular shapes.

Some of the designs that came out of this session, and the problems that came with them, were as follows:

One design showed a globe surrounded by chains representing nations linked in peace. The problem was that it also depicted a world in chains. Another showed a chimney-like brick structure out of which protruded an olive branch. The symbolism was: nations bonded with the mortar of cooperation, with bricks guarding the olive branch of peace. We felt it could be a trademark for a clay products corporation.

Another showed an orthographic global projection. The Eastern hemisphere got the short end of that design.

A fourth design showed two hemisphere projections overlapping. We labelled this one "hackneyed", made famous on a well-known mustard brand label.

Of all the world projections, the most appropriate was the azimuthal equidistant one, wherein all land masses are shown on one circle. We had used it earlier, around the time of El Alamein, when the course of the war was going against the Allies and Wendell Wilkie made his famous "One World" speech. We were doing charts for air distances for bombing, as I remember it, and wherever you went had to be approached via the North Pole.

While our brainstorming had produced a number of designs, none seemed really suitable. After this stalemate, and with time running short, I retired to my office and finally came up with a solution that, simple as it may seem, provided a breakthrough. By liberating the elements from the tyranny of the circle, I was able to accommodate both the text and a "one world projection" in an unusual and distinctive way, while still rendering the copy comfortable to read.

I gave the rough design to staff artist Ivan Spear to draw up. He added the softening touch of crossed branches of laurel.

ehind the scenes at the UNCIO, 1945.

Later, recognizing that laurel was the symbol of victory, I asked Joe Krush to change the leaves to olive for peace on the final artwork. The State Department promptly approved the design.

We mixed a colour for the field, a smoky blue not found in any member nation's flag, and christened it Stettinius Blue in honour of the head of our delegation. Floating on a sea of pure white was the bright gold of the land areas, the wreath, and the text. The pin, which we also called the button or badge, was made of jeweller's enamel.

An identical pin, but substituting flame red instead of smoky blue, was struck for identifying members of the press.

An enlarged working drawing of the design was shipped post-haste to Bastian Brothers in Rochester, New York. I don't remember the size of the order—certainly several thousands—but shipment had to go directly to San Francisco, so I never had a chance to check out the final pin.

As our train neared San Francisco my concern continued to mount. Upon arrival, it was with feelings of faintness and anxiety that I approached the registration desk to get my credentials. I'll not forget my first look at the pin. Wow, it was beautiful! I still have it. ■

The Design Becomes Official

I resigned from the OSS and opened a graphic design office in Washington. I didn't hear any news of the UN emblem for almost a full year. Then, on August 7, 1946, I got a call from Dave Zablodowsky, acting Chief of the UN Presentation Service in New York. It seemed that the General Assembly needed to approve the emblem, which had been stamped in gold on the cover of the Charter. To make it official, the matter was coming up for a vote, and Dave asked if I had any suggestions for improving the design. I immediately mailed back three thoughts, to wit:

(1) For aesthetic and political reasons, shift the land masses a quarter turn to the left.

(2) Extend the map to include the rest of Chile, Argentina and New Zealand.

(3) Add new parallels of latitude to strengthen the circular pattern.

Two of these "before and afters" have been the subject of some speculation. I originally designed the pin with the United States on the vertical axis. Our source map showed North America in this position. There was no question in my mind that the honour of being the host nation at the birth of the UN called for this.

So it was in the spirit of *noblesse oblige* that we shifted North America to the left, giving more balance to the design, and making it so that the map didn't look upside down to the Soviets. Zablodowsky noted that the quarter swing to the left fortuitously landed the vertical position on the International Date Line, one of the first instances of genuine international action.

Zablodowsky dwelt more at length on including all of Chile, Argentina and New Zealand on the final emblem. The only reason they had been omitted from the original was that our Rand McNally source didn't extend that far south and we had been in too much of a hurry to find one that did. Argentina and Chile were never "lopped off", as a *Herald Tribune* article on the new emblem reported.

The revised design was presented to the Assembly. The "Stettinius Blue" was changed to a brighter blue, the official color of a dozen national flags. It was approved without a hitch.

December 1946 . . . Adopted

The design was adopted as the Organization's official seal and emblem on 7 December 1946, when the Assembly adopted resolution 92 (I). Officially, it is described as a "map of the world representing an azimuthal equidistant projection centred on the North Pole, inscribed in a wreath consisting of crossed conventionalized branches of the olive tree, in gold, on a field of smoke blue with all the water areas in white". Secretary-General Trygve Lie had suggested that the new world body adopt the San Francisco logo as its official emblem. It was modified to include all countries to the sixtieth parallel, instead of the fortieth; the meridian of Greenwich was made, its vertical axis to represent countries as accurately as possible in their proper relation to the cardinal points; and five concentric circles, instead of four, were included.

Signing the Charter

A great effort went into the staging of the ceremony which *Life* magazine compared to a "Hollywood production". I prepared a flow chart to avoid hitches in guiding delegates and visitors to the right places inside the building. Each delegation would be escorted through the foyer, its guests dropped off at the visitors gallery. The delegates, at a special backstage briefing station, were instructed on where to stand so that they would be in "camera-range" when they signed the document. At the right moment, they were escorted to a holding area in the wings.

It was agreed that the stalking and crawling antics of the still photographers at the opening plenary session had been an unwelcome distraction. To avoid repetition, we set some simple rules for the media as to their mobility—mainly a 12-inch-high-rope railing set back from the table on a 25-foot radius. The motion picture people, perched high on scaffolds in the rear, were delighted to have their field of vision thus unobstructed.

The 50 countries signed in alphabetical order, beginning at 10 a.m. on June 26. The Chinese delegation was first and brought its own equipment—brushes, inkstick, mortar—and called for a Dixie cup of water. While the world waited, they ground a fresh batch of pure, dense, black Chinese ink.

From there on, things went smoothly and on schedule. Dr. Kelchner of the United States State Department—he was the very image of a gentleman of the old school—greeted each new delegation as they entered. My role in the proceedings was to be all over the place. One moment, I happened to be in the corridor outside the briefing room when the Soviet delegation arrived with Andrei Gromyko at its head. He stopped in front of me as if to say, "What do I do next?" As I explained the briefing room and its purpose, I noticed some dust on his Chesterfield collar. I simply brushed it off naturally as I talked. He took no notice, but I thought later that some Soviet bodyguard could have floored me for such impertinence.

The ceremony was proceeding smoothly as the afternoon wore on, but suddenly in burst a dozen dark-clad security figures from a side door. Everybody backstage stopped in their tracks. In walked President Truman, Secretary of State Stettinius and the American delegation.

US Secretary of State Stettinius *(right)* practiced his signature before the ceremony. President Truman *(left)* witnessed the actual signing.

Mr. Stettinius requested that the Charter be brought backstage so that he could take his time with his signature. When asked what he would do next, he said that he would pretend to sign the Charter when it was returned to the table. Bluntly informed that the telescopic cameras shooting the action could detect a fly speck on the page, he melted and called for pen and paper, dropped into a chair, and practiced his signature five or six times on the back of an 8 x 10 photo that Dick Wilson handed him.

After the last signer rose from the table, pandemonium broke loose. The "papparazzi" leaped the rope barricade and rushed to the table for close-up photographs. Dr. Kelchner, overwhelmed, threw his body over the Charter and called out "McLaughlin! McLaughlin!" I rescued him like a football referee untangling players to get at the ball. The Charter was safe, but the two Sheaffer pens were missing from their marble base. Should someone, someday claim to have the original pens, they should be returned to the UN as stolen property. The Sheaffer Company replaced the pens next morning. My hope is that the scene was captured by the motion picture people—Fox Movietone or Paramount was there.

I took the Charter upstairs under a military guard. We had to wait for a State Department guy to authenticate both documents before we could erase the pencil lines. We had previously calqued soft pencil guide lines on the Charter pages where each signatory was to position his signature. This ensured that even though the number of signatories from each nation varied, the signatures would look presentable, not sprawled or crooked or squeezed. The guidelines now had to be carefully erased with artgum.

It fell to Alger Hiss, the State Department official overseeing UN matters, to fly the Charter to Washington, D.C. for hand delivery to President Truman the next day. While the Charter was wrapped in a parachute for safe passage, Hiss noted with mild irony that he himself had not been provided with one!

The Charter arrived in Washington safely, and now permanently resides in our National Archives. (During 1995, it is on display at UN Headquarters in New York.)

— Donal McLaughlin

'Journeys for a Better World'

A Personal Adventure in War and Peace

by Jean Richardot

In his 367-page autobiography, ***Journeys for a Better World****, Jean Richardot, one of the first recruits to the fledgling UN Secretariat in 1946, recounts 30 years of service to the United Nations—in New York, Chile, Morocco, Haiti, Uganda, Jamaica, Benin, and Cyprus. Another distinguished Secretariat veteran, former Under-Secretary-General Sir Brian Urquhart, in the foreword to this book, said of Mr. Richardot: "During this time, he never lost sight, as bureaucrats sometimes do, of the basic function of the United Nations—helping human beings to live a better life." Mr. Richardot, a citizen of both France and the United States, served in the armies of both countries in the Second World War, an experience which set the stage for his UN career. In his personal chronicle, he urges consideration of a permanent UN military force to deal with the menace of new wars anywhere in the world, and stresses the need to deal with the frightening gap between the world's rich and poor. Born in New York City, he was raised and educated in France. He holds degrees in law and economics from the University of Paris. Now 84 years old, he has homes in Middlebury, Vermont (where he has taught courses on the UN at Middlebury College) and in New Canaan, Connecticut. His book is available from University Press of America, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Md. 20706, 1-800-462-64220. The excerpts which follow provide an intimate, inspiring view of the early days of the UN.*

A Vow in a Foxhole

Normandy, France

July 1944

During the battle in the hedgerows, we were frequently shelled by several German 88mm guns that had zeroed in on our positions, causing many casualties. The shells had a high vertical trajectory and fell on us from heights—more like mortar fire—as if from nowhere. It was quite frightening. Our only option was to get into a foxhole as quickly as possible, even if we had to dig it on the spot, and wait for the shelling to end. That morning it was raining and a nasty wind had kicked up. I was in my foxhole, waiting for the end of the shelling, when a piece of *Stars and Stripes*, the United States Army newspaper, blew slowly in my direction.

It was torn, muddy and yellowed by the sun. I caught it and had begun to read when my attention was caught by a short front page article reporting on some meetings taking place at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D. C.. Experts from the United States and other allied countries were drafting the principles of a new peace organization to replace the defunct League of Nations and establishing the base for a future United Nations organization. Its aim would be to banish war forever from the face of the globe and help member countries to live in peace, respect human rights and improve living conditions all over the world.

Mr. Richardot during the Second World War as a member of the French Army.

I was perhaps skeptical, at first, being too much of a disciple of Montaigne and knowing what had happened to the League of Nations in the 25 years before. This announcement, however, revealed to me, while I sat in danger of being shelled at any moment, had a tremendous impact on me—like a message sent by God. Right then and there, I prayed for peace and the success of this great enterprise and, solemnly, in my foxhole, promised myself that I would do everything in my power to join this new organization if I came through the war alive.

A LOOK BACK

Joining the United Nations

Washington, D.C. — 1946

There were many young men and women like me at the end of the Second World War who wanted to climb aboard the new ship for peace, the United Nations, which was expected to stop war forever. We were all fired up by the noble words in the Preamble to its Charter.

Remembering my vow in the foxhole, I was ready to work in any part of this new organization, destined to become the greatest global human experiment ever. Its purposes, defined in its Charter, were to prevent war, maintain international peace and security, promote social progress and better standards of living in greater freedom, develop friendly relations among nations and achieve international cooperation.

I filled out an application form for UN Secretariat positions and wrote a covering letter to Trygve Lie, the newly-appointed Secretary-General. Then I learned that between 10,000 and 20,000 candidates had applied. My chances appeared slim. How would the UN sort out those thousands of applicants? Since I was working for the State Department, I asked for an interview there with the officers of a new division called International Organizations, which had been responsible for the Dumbarton Oaks meetings where the first blueprint for the UN had been established, and for the San Francisco Conference which approved the UN Charter.

I was told I should talk to Alger Hiss, head of the Division, one of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "fair-haired boys". A graduate of the Harvard Law School, he had served as secretary to Justice Felix Frankfurter of the Supreme Court before joining the State Department, and in 1945 had attended the Yalta Conference with Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin as the right arm of Edward Stettinius, United States Secretary of State.

Hiss received me. The meeting was short and cordial. I told him why I was interested in joining the UN Secretariat, explaining my background and qualifications. To my surprise, his attitude was less than encouraging. He said there would be a lot of competition and the Department had decided not to present any candidates. "Everyone will have to fend for himself", he said with a smile, wishing me good luck.

'I solemnly swear...'

In May 1946, on the day I joined the United Nations, I took the oath of allegiance, as do all members of the Secretariat:

"I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as an international civil servant of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Organization."

As a result, I had contracted special obligations and responsibilities which made me no longer an ordinary citizen of the United States. It is important to understand the principle of independence and primary loyalty of the United Nations staff, one of the tenets of recent international law, as spelled out in Article 100 of the Charter. The idea that individuals may actually have to place their duties to the UN above those of their own country may be difficult to understand for an outsider, but in practice there are few situations where such a choice faces the staff. The overwhelming majority of their duties do not raise problems of national loyalty.

(Incidentally, this rule later proved to be a very poor decision for the United States, as a pre-screening of American candidates might have avoided the difficulties that arose later during the McCarthy "witch hunt" period, to which I refer later. After Senator McCarthy's witch hunt, all Americans working at the UN or who wanted to join the Organization were investigated by the FBI.)

To understand better what being recruited by the UN involved, I decided to go to New York to visit Hunter College in the Bronx, where the UN was temporarily settled, and talk to the Bureau of Personnel. This served me well as, at the precise time I visited Hunter, a session of the Economic and Social Council had just started, and they were in dire need of two additional Assistant Secretaries to serve the meeting, which was to last several weeks. I was lucky enough to meet the Director of the Economic Unit of the Secretariat, at that time Raoul Aglion, a French diplomat who needed an economist bilingual in English and French. I had never met him before, but I appeared to be the person he was seeking. He was able to convince the Bureau of Personnel that they should offer me a probationary appointment.

A London Summer

May 1946

Soon after, I was invited to join the UN Secretariat as Senior Economic Affairs Officer, to serve the newly-created UN bodies in the economic field—the Economic and Social Council and its sub-committees—and to participate in the preparation of studies requested by them. Later, I was given a number of exciting assignments both at UN Headquarters and in the operations field programmes. Joining the UN made my life; I could hardly have chosen a more rewarding career.

I resigned from the State Department, left Washington in May 1946 to work with the Economic and Social Council until the end of its session, then was sent to London to serve a newly-created sub-committee of the Council for Reconstruction of Devastated Areas of Europe, its official name. The sub-committee was to survey war-torn areas, consult with the European Governments concerned and draft recommendations for action by the UN. At that time, it was hoped that the UN would have a role in the reconstruction of Europe. The Council had in mind creation of a permanent regional

The UN moved to Lake Success in 1946.

commission for the whole of Europe. As will be seen, it did not turn out that way.

Our group arrived in London in June for approximately three months. It was a challenging experience for me, as it was the first time an organ of regional cooperation had been envisaged by the UN. Our group settled at Church House in Dean's Yard, Westminster, near Central Hall. Church House had been the temporary offices of the United Nations for a whole year, before the Organization was transferred to New York. The small Secretariat, now at Hunter College, was then directed by Gladwyn Jebb, a brilliant and distinguished British diplomat and the UN's first international civil servant. He was assisted by David Owen (not to be confused with David Owen, the former British Foreign Secretary, later responsible for peace efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina), the future UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, with whom I was to work on my return to New York, and by Brian Urquhart, who became personal assistant to all the UN Secretaries-General and, afterwards, a UN Under-Secretary-General. Urquhart was to be among the masterminds of the UN peace-keeping operations and the author of Dag Hammarskjöld's biography.

> "Joining the UN made my life; I could hardly have chosen a more rewarding career"

In London, it rained solidly all summer long except one Sunday, but we were so busy that it did not really matter; we spent most of the days and evenings in the office or in meetings. The Sub-Committee members, each representing their Governments, were soon divided into three fact-finding teams, one for Western, one for Eastern and the third for Southern Europe. The teams were to confer with the Governments, visit the devastated areas in the three regions, then discuss priority problems with the appropriate ministries. We would then return to London with our data and draft the sub-committee's recommendations. I was designated Secretary of the team visiting the Western European countries. We went to France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg and took trips to the most war-torn areas of northern and northeastern France. We saw ruined port installations, particularly in Rotterdam and the region of the Netherlands which had been flooded when the enemy invaded the country; these visits were always accompanied by the inevitable official receptions.

Acting upon the report of our sub-committee, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the creation of a UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), to be installed in Geneva. Its first Executive Secretary was Gunnar Myrdal, the Swedish economist, a Nobel Prize laureate, well known in the United States for his work, *The American Dilemma*, one of the first extensive sociological surveys on the conditions of blacks in the United States.

Shortly after the decision to create the UN Economic Commission, the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe was launched. It was not linked to the UN; instead it was a partnership among the Western European countries, the United States and Canada. A new organization, later called the Organization for European Cooperation and Development (OECD), was set up in Paris to implement the Plan. As is widely known, the Soviet Union was invited to join the Marshall Plan, but declined. This was one of the first signals of the impending cold war, and, soon after, the Iron Curtain fell, which divided Europe for more than four decades. Accordingly, the role of the UN Commission for Europe was less important than it would have been had Europe remained undivided.

Without the cold war, reconstructed Europe, developing as a single continent, would have prospered faster. Instead, we were forced to wait 45 years to see a reunification of Germany, the end of Communism and the democratization of the East European countries, and the dawn of a new continent with a brighter future, on its way to greater unification of its diverse parts.

The Commission for Europe had not been planned as an operational body. It has been an outstanding research center for its Western and Eastern European member States for more than 40 years, serving them with statistics, economic studies on the problems of Europe, giving advice to the Governments on concepts and policies, doing work in many fields and providing a useful bridge between the two parts of Europe—highly appreciated by both of them. Shortly after the creation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Western Europeans formed their own Economic Community and elected a European Parliament which, of course, are not linked to the UN, but are favoured by it as the Charter encouraged regional political and economic arrangements. As a matter of fact, regional thinking and planning have become a fact of life.

During the following years, similar UN regional economic commissions were created: one for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in Shanghai, moved later to Bangkok; one for Latin America (ECLA), in Santiago, Chile (with which I was connected); one for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and one for the Arab countries in Beirut, later moved to Baghdad, which Israel did not want to join.

The UN regional economic commissions have worked very well, promoting integrated economic and social development and regional cooperation in the areas where they have been established. They are a clear proof that many economic problems are best dealt with regionally.

> “There was always the feeling of serving the noble cause of peace, and the knowledge that international civil service, because of its newness, complexity and the diversity of its staff, could not be perfect”

Lake Success
New York — 1946-1947

In fall, 1946, when I returned to New York from London after the sub-commission's work had been completed, the UN Secretariat had moved from Hunter College to the vast Sperry Gyroscope plant in Lake Success, near Great Neck, Long Island, which would be its home until the permanent UN Headquarters were built on the East River in New York. Lake Success, a bedroom community, was about 45 minutes by car from New York City. While Secretariat personnel worked at the duly converted plant, the delegates to the General Assembly were meeting at a remodelled skating rink on the 1939 World's Fair grounds, a place I knew well.

In those days, the Secretariat still was very small, a few hundred people at most. The families of the officers who had joined the UN from their own countries lived for a while at the splendid Lido Beach Hotel on the Atlantic shore of Long Island, not far from Jones Beach. A fashionable summer resort hotel before the war, the Lido Beach had been requisitioned by the United States Navy until the end of the war, and was put at UN disposal because of the critical shortage of housing for our staff.

Limousines shuttled us to our Lake Success offices every morning, as few owned cars in those days. At the hotel, our wives had a pleasant residence and a beach. My daughter Carole was four years old and enjoyed the company of children from other countries, while the wives could play bridge and share their sometimes frightening wartime experiences. We met then at night after their comfortable day for an excellent dinner served at small linen-covered tables bearing single roses in a vase. For those who had just left the war behind them, it was pleasant to enjoy again the niceties of peacetime.

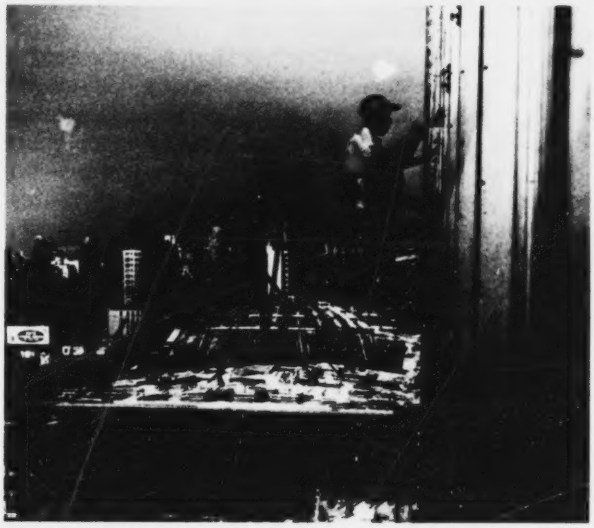
Upon leaving Lido Beach at the end of 1946, some families moved to a new apartment complex called Parkway Village in Queens. But we were able to rent a one-bedroom apartment in a new building on Schenk Avenue in Great Neck, where several UN Secretariat and Delegation families also lived. The housing situation continued critical and, thanks to a special arrangement made by the UN Housing office, this modern complex was among the first available to us in the area. Even though we had a child and, two years later, a second one, we could not get a larger unit. Soon we were able to buy a car. The apartment building had a garage in the basement, something new in the suburbs at that time.

Life at Schenk Avenue was pleasant. We made many good friends there, including Americans, Ecuadorians, Dutch, French, Haitian and Chinese. We visited each other frequently and shared enjoyable parties some evenings, each family preparing a dish and the party moving from apartment to apartment as the meal progressed. The evening usually finished with dancing at the Correas to lively sambas and other Latin American music.

We all kept busy schedules during the day, and I remember spending many evenings and even nights drafting reports to meet Economic and Social Council deadlines. We were still terribly understaffed.

Turtle Bay
New York — 1950

By the time I returned from Chile in 1950 (I was assigned to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean from 1948 to 1950), the new UN Headquarters,



The UN Headquarters under construction in September 1951.

located on a beautiful spot prosaically named Turtle Bay (translated from an Indian name) on the shore of the East River, was almost completed.

The New York site was chosen after a long search. The Europeans preferred Geneva; the Russians favoured a site in the United States. Robert Moses, then the powerful official planner of New York City, proposed the city to the Rockefeller family. John D. Rockefeller, through the New York City Council, donated $8.5 million to the UN for the purchase of the Turtle Bay site along the East River, between 42nd and 48th Streets, an area full of slaughterhouses, warehouses and slums. New York City acquired, then gave the land, an area of 16 acres, and waterfront rights, to the UN; it became one of the most expensive pieces of real estate in New York.

We continued to work at Lake Success until our offices were transferred to Manhattan in 1950. The first day I arrived at the wide, black iron gate in front of the impressive new Headquarters, I felt more pride than ever at having joined the UN. A stream of thoughts came back to me, including the fighting in Normandy and my dream of joining the UN one day. I thought of those who had not come back and did not have the chance I had now, working at what was to be the nerve center of worldwide activities promoting peace.

> "I thought of those who had not come back and did not have the chance I had now, working at what was to be the nerve center of worldwide activities promoting peace"

From the gate, I contemplated the four buildings which comprise the Headquarters: the low, domed General Assembly with its gently curved roofline; the 39-story glass and marble Secretariat Building; the low, rectangular Conference Building alongside the East River; and, on the southwest corner of the site, the elegant building later to be the UN Library, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, a gift of the Ford Foundation.

Forty-five years after its completion, the UN Headquarters in my view still represents one of Manhattan's most interesting works of architecture; it has not become dated despite all the daring and powerful skyscrapers built since the 1950s. The basic design, the work of an international architectural team led by Wallace K. Harrison, an American, included contributions by such world figures as Le Corbusier and Neumeier, who later designed Brasilia, Brazil's new capital. In planning the Headquarters, they had held to two basic principles: to create the most efficient working conditions for the delegates, providing them with a spacious and handsome hall for the General Assembly, well appointed Council and conference rooms; and, for the Secretariat and UN staff, a well coordinated and arresting set of connected buildings.

The tall Secretariat building, where my office was located, appeared to me like a giant matchbox standing on end, its all-glass front reflecting the sky and the abstract silhouettes of the buildings across First Avenue, its two narrow sides made of beautiful green Vermont marble. I entered the gate and passed beside the circular fountain that dominated the forecourt, later graced with the sculpture "Single Form" given to the UN by Barbara Hepworth, whose work Hammarskjöld admired.

One of the elevators lifted me to the 25th floor, where the Department of Economic Affairs was to be settled. I wanted to find out whether my office would face the river or Manhattan, for each side offers dramatic contrasting views. Each officer has an office with one, two or three window sections depending on his or her grade in the Organization. The metal furniture is light grey and purely functional. The wall partitions are easily removed to change the size of an office at will. Under each windowsill is an up-to-date air conditioning system to balance the climate of the building's east and west sides to compensate for the heat generated by the sun catching the glass structure in the morning or afternoon.

An American friend, Glen Bennett, a former professional musician and a legendary figure at Headquarters, was the director of the office of the Architectural Committee and later headed the attractive corps of UN guides. He took me on a tour.

The interior decoration for the General Assembly hall, and the chambers for the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council were not yet fully finished. Not until 1952 did the Assembly meet in its hall. This magnificent modern structure, with a 77-foot ceiling, was being fitted with more than 1,000 blue and green seats for the delegations and the public. This was where delegates of the member nations from throughout the world were to meet, the closest thing to a "Parliament of Mankind" ever assembled. Artists and artisans from Scandinavia were still working on the Council chambers' decor. That of the Security Council, often seen on television, was the work of Norwegian Architect Arnstein Arneberg and includes a large mural by Per Krohg of Norway symbolizing the promise of peace and individual freedom. The Trusteeship Council chamber was designed by Danish artists, while the Economic and Social Council chamber is a product of talented Swedish designers.

In my first year in the Secretariat, I spent many days working in the Economic and Social Council chamber, which met then twice a year. I was assigned to some of its sessions, as well as to those of the Second Committee of the Assembly (Economic Committee) as Assistant Secretary, the Secretary always being a high ranking officer of the Secretariat who helped the President of the Council or the Committee in the debates, which I had to follow very carefully.

At night, I often was in charge of approving the precis, the official summaries of the lengthy proceedings. I was required to wait until the precis-writers from our language divisions had completed their work, which I had to check carefully for accuracy before they were reproduced overnight for distribution to the delegations the next morning. This was precise work that often kept me at the office for long evening hours; often I didn't get home until eleven o'clock or midnight. Professional personnel were not remunerated for this overtime—it was a privilege that went with the job. Fortunately, my assignment changed after a time of this rather tedious work.

Friends ...

I could not name all the friends from the Secretariat who helped make my days there so congenial and unique. Yet I must mention a few. Many colleagues had fought in the Second World War. These included Stéphane Hessel, the programme coordinator in the Department of Social Affairs. A graduate of the *École Normale Supérieure*, France's top school, he had headed a French Resistance network during the war. Captured by the Gestapo, he was sent to Buchenwald, from which, it was reported, he escaped by being spirited out of the camp in a sealed coffin, passing for dead.

Another hero was Brian Urquhart, who later became Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, whom I have known since the UN settled in New York. A paratrooper who served in the British Army in North Africa, Sicily and Europe, he survived the most incredible accident when his parachute did not open. Crashing to the ground from a height of 1,200 feet, he broke every bone in his body. Miraculously, he completely recovered after a long hospital stay.

There also was Robert Muller, from Alsace-Lorraine, a friend and later an Assistant Secretary-General who, during the German occupation of France, had fought with the *maquis*—resistance fighters named for the scrub-covered mountainous terrain where they hid and from which they raided the Germans during the Occupation—while still a student. He joined the UN as an intern, having won an essay contest on the subject of world government. Now retired, he is the Chancellor of the University of Peace, a highly respected author and lecturer and a real prophet of the UN.

One thing I admired most was the manner in which we at the Secretariat were able to work together despite our vastly different backgrounds and experiences. ■

'I believe we can achieve peace on Earth...'

In the 1850s, my grandfather was conscripted and gave seven years of his life to the French Army participating in Napoleon III's campaigns in Italy. In 1912, my father died at age 28; had he lived, he likely would have fought and perhaps died in the bloody trenches of the First Great War. I fought in two armies in the Second World War, hoping it would be the last, but since then more than 100 regional wars have broken out in various parts of the world. Yet, in 1993, there is renewed hope that a new drive for peace among all nations may banish war through a new and reformed United Nations.

Mr. Richardot

I believe in the human spirit. I believe we can achieve peace on Earth, but only if we exercise the will to create the conditions that nurture peace.

I have been blessed. Born a citizen of the United States and reared a Frenchman, I was given the chance to share the culture of two of the world's greatest democracies. Further, I had the great privilege of raising a wonderful family in a country that encourages us to grow according to our desires. Even further, I had the extraordinary privilege of working for years in the United Nations.

At the UN, I enjoyed the honour of acquiring an inside view of the problems affecting world peace and world development on a globe so full of contradictions, and to work for these two great causes so closely linked. I wish I had been able to do more; looking back over the path of my life, I see myself as just a small drop in the tumultuous flow of the river which carries mankind to its destiny. I remain full of hope for the future. My contribution has been modest, but I believe my life and that of my colleagues and their multitude of experiences can serve younger generations, not only those who want to go into international service, but all young men and women.

In closing these memoirs, my mind returns to the day I stood at the gate of the UN on the East River, ready to enter its new Headquarters, thinking of my buddies in the Fourth Armored Division who did not come home from the war. Thanks to the UN, the risk of another world war is now minimal.

A strengthened United Nations is our best instrument to deter aggression and to take the people of the world to a better life. It remains our only hope. Even in our violent and often war-torn world, where ignorance and misery exist in so many areas, mankind is progressing day by day. We must remain optimistic.

—**Jean Richardot**

Fighting escalates, UN role in question

Peace-keepers in a 'war situation', used as 'human shields', Secretary-General reports

AP/Wide World Photos

Two UN peace-keepers used as "human shields", chained to a bridge in the Pale area on 26 May. NATO planes had bombed a nearby ammunition dump. *(This photo was reproduced from Bosnian Serb TV.)*

With escalation of bitter and bloody fighting and ensuing deterioration of the situation throughout the former Yugoslavia, UN peace-keepers have found themselves in a predicament that is "no longer tolerable", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared at the end of May.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained in a "war situation" where, after more than three years, there was "still no peace to keep", he said. UN troops were being continuously obstructed, targeted by warring sides, denied resupply, restricted in movements, and subjected to constant criticism.

Following two air strikes on 24 and 25 May against a Bosnian Serb ammunition dump near Pale, conducted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), some 400 UN personnel were detained by the Bosnian Serb forces, many "in humiliating circumstances and in violation of international norms of military conduct", the Secretary-General stated in his 30 May report *(S/1995/444)*. Moreover, some had been used as "human shields to deter further air attacks on potential targets".

The Bosnian Serbs' violation of the Sarajevo exclusion zone, their "criminal shelling of civilian targets in Tuzla and elsewhere", and their "inexcusable retaliation" against UN personnel had "violently highlighted" the conditions in which UNPROFOR had to operate and the "dangers inherent in the inconsistencies of its present mandate", he stated.

For example, the Force's original peace-keeping authority, which could not be implemented without the cooperation of the parties, had gradually been "enlarged to include elements of enforcement". That had caused UNPROFOR to be "seen as a party to the conflict".

Also, the safe-area mandate required the Force to "cooperate and negotiate daily" with a party upon whom it was expected to "call air strikes in certain circumstances" and upon which sanctions had been imposed by the UN.

As a result, the Secretary-General continued, Bosnian Serbs had "now largely withdrawn their consent and cooperation from UNPROFOR", declaring in response their own "sanctions" to the UN.

Since neither side appeared to have reached a firm conclusion that it had a "better chance of achieving its objectives at the negotiating table than on the battlefield", all efforts to reduce the intensity of the conflict might be seen by the parties as "more of a hindrance than a help", he observed.

Also, UNPROFOR was not, as many of its critics seemed to believe, deployed to end the war in Bosnia, he stressed. Nor was it an army sent out to "fight on one side in the war". Its objectives were: to assist in providing humanitarian aid; contain the conflict by imposing constraints on the belligerents through safe areas and exclusion and "no-fly" zones; and negotiate local cease-fires and other measures aimed at achieving an overall political settlement.

In view of the "untenability" of UNPROFOR's current situation, there was a "need to clarify whether its role is peace-keeping or enforcement", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated. In that regard, four options for UNPROFOR might be considered: withdraw the Force, leaving a "small political mission, if that was the wish of the parties"; retain its present form; permit "greater use of force"; and revise the mandate to include "only those tasks that a peace-keeping operation can realistically be expected to perform".

The Secretary-General believed that a "realistic mandate" would enable UNPROFOR to help contain the situation in Bosnia "without creating expectations that it could either enforce an end to the war or join it to fight on the side of one of the parties".

Resolution 998: 'Rapid reaction capacity'

The Security Council on 16 June authorized an increase of up to 12,500 additional troops for UN forces in Bosnia, in order to establish a "rapid reaction capacity" to enable UNPROFOR to carry out its mandate.

In adopting resolution 998 (1995) by a vote of 13 to none with 2 abstentions (China, Russian Federation), the Council also demanded that the Bosnian Serb forces "release immediately and unconditionally" all remaining detained UNPROFOR personnel. It called upon the parties to agree without further delay to a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities.

Stressing that there could be "no military solution to the conflict", the Council reiterated its demand that the Bosnian Serb party accept the peace plan prepared by the Contact Group—France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States—as a "starting point".

All parties were told to fully respect the safety of UNPROFOR personnel and others engaged in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, ensure their complete freedom of movement, and allow unimpeded access for such assistance to all parts of Bosnia, particularly the safe areas.

The Council authorized the Secretary-General to carry forward the implementation of its decision and encouraged him to "intensify efforts aimed at reaching agreement with the parties on the modalities for demilitarization, taking particular account of the need to ensure the safety of the civilian population". The parties were also called upon to cooperate fully with those efforts.

Explaining its abstention, the Russian Federation said the resolution left the impression that the rapid reaction force was "intended to operate against one of the Bosnian parties". China said it believed that such a force would "bring about a de facto change to the peace-keeping status" of UNPROFOR, which would then be "bound to become a party to the conflict".

In April, May and June, the Security Council met formally on 12 occasions to consider the situation in the former Yugoslavia, adopting six resolutions and issuing seven statements.

> "After more than three years, there is still no peace to keep; UN troops are being continually targeted"

Also, from 1 April through 30 June, some 1,437 violations of the ban on military flights, imposed under Council resolution 816 (1993), were reported —597 more than in the previous three months, bringing to 5,711 the total number of apparent violations since monitoring began in November 1992 under resolution 781 (1992).

Respect demanded

On 23 June, the Security Council condemned interference with humanitarian supplies and UNPROFOR's freedom of movement by all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and demanded that they "fully respect the safety and security" of the personnel of UNPROFOR to enable it to carry out its mandate.

In a statement by its President, Detlev Graf zu Rantzau of Germany, the Council also expressed deep concern at the blockading by Bosnian Government forces of UNPROFOR personnel in the Visoko, Gorazde, Gorni Vakuf and Kladanj areas, "which included on 20 June 1995 placing mines outside the UNPROFOR camp in Visoko".

The Council was deeply concerned also at the deterioration in the situation in and around Sarajevo, the obstruction by the Bosnian Serb party of freedom of movement and utilities to the city, and the "continued obstruction of the normal operation of Sarajevo airport". The parties were called upon to "agree without further delay to a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities".

Concern over airlift suspension

Concern over the "recent deterioration" of the situation in Bosnia and the obstruction of the normal operation of Sarajevo airport, including the "suspension of the humanitarian relief airlift" caused by Bosnian Serb threats against UN aircraft, was expressed by the Security Council on 3 May, as it issued two presidential statements.

In one text, the Council called upon the Bosnian parties to reach a cease-fire, fully support UNPROFOR's negotiating efforts, and "abstain from any steps which may lead to further escalation of the conflict".

The second statement contained a Council demand that all parties and others concerned fully comply with the 5 June 1992 agreement on reopening the Sarajevo airport under UN authority, and immediately create the necessary conditions for "unimpeded delivery of humanitarian supplies" to the city, as well as other parts of Bosnia.

The Council also called upon the Bosnian Serbs to "guarantee the safety of all UNPROFOR supervised flights" to Sarajevo, including humanitarian relief flights.

Resolution 987: UNPROFOR security

The Security Council on 19 April, gravely preoccupied at the attacks on UNPROFOR personnel in Bosnia and the "fatalities resulting therefrom", demanded that all parties and others concerned "refrain from any act of intimidation or violence" against the UN personnel. In unanimously adopting resolution 987 (1995), the Council also emphasized the parties' responsibility for UNPROFOR safety and security.

In a 14 April statement, the Council had expressed indignation that a French soldier of UNPROFOR had been "deliberately targeted and shot to death by an unidentified sniper" in Sarajevo. It strongly condemned such acts directed at "peace-keepers who are serving the cause of peace". The Council was also concerned over the killing of other UN soldiers in similar circumstances.

Deliberate targeting of UNPROFOR personnel, which reflected the "overall deterioration of the situation" in Bosnia, was "totally unacceptable", the Council stated. All parties and others concerned must respect fully the status of UN peace-keepers, it stated.

AP/Wide World Photos

Snipers continue to fire at Sarajevo residents trying to live a normal life.

Sarajevo fighting

Tension and fighting around Sarajevo, which ultimately led to the NATO air attacks, had intensified after the 31 December 1994 cessation-of-hostilities agreement expired on 1 May, the Secretary-General reported on 30 May.

A 7 May Bosnian Serb mortar attack on a Sarajevo suburb had killed 10 persons and wounded 30. Fighting the following day had been the "heaviest the city had experienced since February 1994", he said.

On 16 May, Government and Serb forces had again engaged in "heavy fighting around key features", dominating both the city and the Serb-controlled road to Pale and escalating to the use of heavy weapons by both sides.

On 24 May, Bosnian Serbs again fired heavy weapons and Government forces responded from various positions within the city. As a result, 16 civilians and military personnel had been killed and at least 60 wounded, it was reported.

Later the same day, both sides were warned by UNPROFOR that their forces would be attacked from the air if all heavy weapons did not cease firing by 1200 hours the next day. Bosnian Serbs were told to return four heavy weapons removed from weapons collection points.

A second deadline, 24 hours later, was set up for the removal out of range, or the placement in weapons collection points, of all heavy weapons introduced by both sides.

Bosnian Minister killed

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali on 30 May expressed shock and sadness over the 28 May deaths of Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubjankic and his party near Bihac. The deaths underscored the "importance of all parties to exercise the greatest effort to bring a solution to this terrible conflict", he said.

Air strikes, 'human shields'

The first NATO air attack—limited to two bunkers within an ammunition dump near Pale, in order to make an "effective strike while reducing the risk of casualties or unnecessary collateral damage"—had taken place at 1620 hours on 25 May, the Secretary-General reported.

Bosnian Serbs, in response, surrounded some weapons collection points and shelled all safe areas, except Zepa, which resulted in "particularly heavy casualties in Tuzla" where some 70 civilians were killed and more than 130 injured.

On 26 May, a second attack on the six remaining bunkers in the Pale ammunition dump was conducted. Bosnian Serbs surrounded additional weapons collection points, taking UN military observers into custody and "using a number of them as human shields to deter further air attacks on potential targets", the Secretary-General said.

An UNPROFOR observation post at the Vrbanja bridge in Sarajevo was recaptured by UNPROFOR, but some 200 UNPROFOR personnel were subsequently detained by Bosnian Serb forces. A further 224 were at locations where "access and movement were being denied" by those forces, the Secretary-General stated.

AP/Wide World Photos

A refugee camp in the Croatian port city of Rijeka.

Some 121 UN peace-keepers—primarily from France, Canada and the United Kingdom—detained after the May NATO air strikes, were released on 4 June.

Croatia: Situation worsens

In Croatia, the situation worsened, providing a "bitter example of the consequences that occur when conflicting parties forsake peaceful options and resort to war", the Secretary-General reported *(S/1995/467)* on 9 June.

While mediation efforts on the part of the UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) had "contributed significantly" to the avoidance of further escalation of hostilities, UNCRO's redeployment by 30 June, as required by Council resolution 982 (1995) of 31 March, was "no longer possible", he said.

After a 1 May Croatian military offensive against the local Krajina Serbs in Sector West—violating the 29 March 1994 cease-fire agreement—and the Serbs' retaliatory missile attacks on Zagreb and some other Croatian towns, tensions between the parties had risen to an "extremely high level", the Secretary-General stated.

Despite a 3 May cessation of hostilities agreement, shelling and other military activity continued in Serb-inhabited areas. Those moves "further weakened the integrity of the cease-fire" agreement and threatened UN positions, the Secretary-General observed.

In such circumstances, notwithstanding both parties' requests that UNCRO should stay and complete its redeployment, "more than words are required to justify the continuation of this expensive and dangerous mission", he stressed.

That was especially so because there remained on both sides "influential elements that continue to be unreconciled to the objectives of the international community and who are inclined to pursue their ends by military means", he said. In that regard, he expressed "grave concern" at reports of ongoing joint military manoeuvres by the Croatian Army and Bosnian Croat forces "in the area of Mount Dinara adjacent to Sector South, including the shelling of UNCRO positions".

Reconciliation or violence

On 18 April, the Secretary-General had warned *(S/1995/320)* that the situation on the ground in that area of Croatia was volatile and "could quickly deteriorate further". However, both the Government and local Serb authorities were aware that the alternative to reconciliation would be "more violence and a resumption of war", he said.

Noting that complete redeployment of UN peace-keepers in Croatia by 30 June 1995 was not possible, the Security Council on 16 June condemned the continuation of offensive actions and the intimidation of UNCRO personnel.

In a statement by Council President zu Rantzau, it nevertheless asked the Secretary-General to "proceed as expeditiously as possible" with the redeployment, with the aim of fulfilling all UNCRO's tasks under its mandate.

Demanding that the parties cooperate with UNCRO, the Council reiterated its warning that if they did not refrain from any military action that could lead to the escalation of the situation, further steps to ensure such compliance would be considered.

Moves by local Serb authorities in Croatia and in Bosnia to establish a union would be "inconsistent" with the Council's commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries, it stated.

The parties, particularly the Croatian Government, were also called upon to cease military actions and uphold the 29 March 1994 and 2 December 1994 agreements.

In welcoming Croatia's agreement to a continued UNCRO presence "in the area of Western Slavonia known as Sector West" and noting both parties' desire that the UNCRO mission should continue, the Council said that cooperation with UNCRO and compliance with the March 1994 cease-fire were essential "for progress towards a negotiated settlement".

Resolutions 994, 990: Withdrawal asked, troops authorized

Stressing the need for the early re-establishment of UNCRO's authority in Croatia, the Security Council on 17 May demanded that the Operation's status and mandate, as well as the safety and security of its personnel, be respected.

In unanimously adopting resolution 994 (1995), the Council also demanded that the parties "complete without further delay the withdrawal of all their troops from the zones of separation and refrain from any further violations of those zones".

Parties were warned that in the event of failure to refrain from taking any military measures or actions that could lead to the escalation of the situation, the Council would consider further steps to ensure compliance.

The Council demanded that the Croatian Government "respect fully the rights of the Serb population, including their freedom of movement", and allow access to them by international humanitarian organizations. Steps to ensure the safety and security of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway and its immediate environs were asked.

On 28 April, the Council had authorized the deployment of some 8,750 UNCRO troops by unanimously adopting resolution 990 (1995). It also urged the Government and the local Serb authorities to "cooperate fully with UNCRO in the implementation of its mandate".

Incursions condemned

Expressing deep concern over the continuation of hostilities, the Council on 4 May condemned "incursions into the zone of separation" by the forces of the Croatian Government in Sectors North and South, and by both sides in Sector East, and demanded that they withdrew immediately.

In a statement by Council President Jean-Bertrand Mérimée of France, it also condemned the bombardment of Zagreb and other centres of civilian population by local Serbs and demanded that they cease immediately.

Acts of harassment and intimidation against UN personnel were condemned, and the Council reminded the parties of their "obligations to respect such personnel at all times and to ensure their safety, security and freedom of movement".

Deeply concerned by reports that human rights of the Serb population in Western Slavonia were being violated, the Council demanded that Croatia respect fully their rights, in conformity with internationally recognized standards.

The parties were also called upon to cooperate fully with UNCRO, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross in "protecting and assisting the local civilian population and any displaced persons".

The successful rescue on 8 June of American Pilot Scott O'Grady, whose NATO F-16 fighter jet had been downed on 2 June while patrolling a no-fly zone over Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was welcomed by the Secretary-General with "relief and satisfaction". Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in an 8 June statement, also expressed concern about UN personnel "still detained or blocked in Bosnia" and called for their immediate release.

End to offensive demanded

Deeply concerned by the resumption of hostilities in Croatia "over the last few days", the Security Council on 1 May demanded that the Government "put an end immediately to the military offensive launched by its forces in the area of Western Slavonia known as Sector West which started on the morning of 1 May 1995, in violation of the cease-fire agreement of 29 March 1994".

In a statement by Council President Mérimée, it also urged the parties to cease hostilities, comply with the existing cease-fire agreement, and fully respect the safety and freedom of movement of all UN and European Community Monitoring Mission personnel in the area concerned.

Resolution 988: Further suspension

A further suspension, until 5 July, of some of the economic sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)—the FRY—was authorized by the Security Council on 21 April. That suspension, originally enacted under resolution 943 (1994) of 23 September 1994 and extended by resolution 970 (1995) of 12 January 1995, applied to: restrictions on air travel; impoundment of vessels, vehicles and aircraft; maritime traffic; sporting events; and cultural exchanges.

The initial wide-ranging sanctions against the FRY, including an air embargo, had been imposed by resolution 757 (1992) of 30 May 1992. On 17 April 1993, the Council tightened them to prevent diversion of commodities and products "said to be destined for other places", and to freeze funds held in other States.

In adopting resolution 988 (1995) by 13 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (China and Russian Federation), the Council also asked the Secretary-General to report immediately if he had any evidence that the FRY was not implementing its decision to close its border with Bosnia and Herzegovina or was permitting "substantial diversion of goods, except foodstuffs, medical supplies and clothing for essential humanitarian needs".

The importance of a "thorough investigation of reports that helicopter flights may have crossed the border" was stressed.

Compliance certified

Lord David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg—Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY) Steering Committee—reported *(S/1995/510)* on 23 June that the FRY was "continuing to meet its commitment" to close the border with the areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Bosnian Serb control, and there had been "no commercial transshipments across the border".

The ICFY Mission, deployed since 14 September 1994, had 185 international staff as of 22 June; its financial situation had improved, so that an increase in personnel to 200 had been authorized, the report stated.

The Mission continued to enjoy full freedom of movement within the FRY, and cooperation with its authorities also remained good, despite some minor incidents, mostly in conjunction with developments in Bosnia, the Co-Chairmen stated.

Mission Coordinator Tauno Nieminen of Finland had found that local border officials "increasingly deny passage to buses carrying commercial quantities of goods and regularly confiscate fuel and other commodities", they reported.

FRY compliance had also been certified by the Co-Chairmen on 17 May *(S/1995/406)* and 11 April *(S/1995/302)*, as they continued to report every 30 days on border closure measures, pursuant to Council resolution 943 (1994).

As for the alleged cross-border helicopter flights into Bosnia, a special ICFY Mission inquiry team reported *(S/1995/385)* on 9 May that a "detailed analysis" of unexplained radar traces did not give rise to suspicion that "some unauthorized border crossings by slow flying objects" might have taken place between 2 and 7 April. Other evidence would be required to "prove or to disprove conclusively each case", it said.

Although no such information was available, an incident on 6 April still looked "highly suspicious", the team stated.

Sanctions watch

A UNHCR request to use Belgrade international airport for supplies within its humanitarian programme in the former Yugoslavia was approved on 27 June by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia—the Sanctions Committee. Two other requests—to use the Zagreb-Belgrade highway and the Port of Bar—were deferred.

Sanctions Committee Chairman Emilio J. Cardenas of Argentina said that in considering again the situation with regard to fuel smuggling through Albania to the FRY, the Committee was encouraged by Albania's recent success in that area. It noted with satisfaction Italy's adoption of further measures to verify hydrocarbon shipments destined for Albania.

In view of the Security Council arms embargo under resolution 713 (1991), the Sanctions Committee had also deferred, pending receipt of additional technical information, a request for 20 planes for a Croatian university for training purposes.

Resolution 992: Navigation on Danube

Security Council resolution 992 (1995) of 11 May, allowing the FRY to use the Romanian locks of the Iron Gates I system on the left bank of the Danube river, while those on the right bank were being repaired, came into force on 23 June.

Chairman Cardenas said that the Danube Commission—a watchdog body set up by riparian States—had informed the Sanctions Committee on 22 June that it was satisfied with the completion of preparations for the repairs to the locks on the right bank.

The Council on 11 May, in unanimously adopting resolution 992 (1995) at Romania's request, had also decided that the exception to the sanctions should remain in force for an initial period of 60 days and might be extended further for up to 60 days, if the Council was notified by the Sanctions Committee that "each such further period is required for completion of the necessary repairs".

Romania was asked to deny passage through the Iron Gates I system to any vessel "identified as being a party to any suspected or substantiated violation" of the relevant Council resolutions and, with the assistance of the European Union/Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Sanctions Assistance Missions, to strictly monitor that use, including by inspections of the vessels and their cargo, so that "no goods are loaded or unloaded during the passage by the vessels through the locks of the Iron Gates I system".

On 11 May, Mr. Cardenas told reporters that the locks had not been repaired since 1993, and the Sanctions Committee was "very concerned about the risks posed to navigation and the ecology of the area".

Under the sanctions regime set up by Council resolution 713 (1991) and strengthened by resolution 820 (1993), no vessels registered in the FRY, or owned by a person or undertaking in or operating from that State, were permitted to pass through installations, including river locks or canals, within territories of Member States.

Humanitarian appeal

On 2 June, a revised consolidated inter-agency appeal for more than $261 million to meet a funding shortfall for humanitarian assistance for the former Yugoslavia in 1995 was launched at Headquarters.

High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen said that due to resurgence of the conflict, more than 2 million people needed humanitarian help, particularly those unable to return to their homes, the sick, wounded and those in need of protection.

About $65 million were pledged by some 20 countries at a second donor conference for the UN Action Plan for Sarajevo, held on 14 June in Vienna.

William Eagleton, Special Coordinator for Sarajevo, told participants that over 300 projects—such as boiler houses for heating apartment buildings, gas valves, water leak repairs, water quality control, waste disposal, health services, rail service and school repair—were being implemented under the plan.

Appointments, troop contributors

Byung Suk Min, the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to the Czech Republic, became the first Chief of Mission of UNCRO on 5 July. Two other appointments—Antonio Pedauye, Spain's Ambassador-at-large for the former Yugoslavia, as Chief of Mission of UNPROFOR; and Henryk J. Sokalski of Poland, Director and Coordinator for the International Year of the Family at the UN Office in Vienna, as Chief of Mission of the UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—were announced on 24 May. ■

UNAMIR mandate shifts from peace-keeping to confidence-building

Independent Commission investigates Kibeho violence

Voicing "great concern" over reports of military preparations and increasing incursions into the troubled Central African country of Rwanda by elements of the former regime, the Security Council on 9 June underlined the need for effective measures to ensure that "Rwandan nationals currently in neighbouring countries" did not undertake destabilizing military activities.

In light of the curent situation" in the country, the Council adjusted the size and mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).

Under resolution 997 (1995), the Mission's mandate was extended for an additional six months, until 8 December 1995. Its force level was to be reduced from a currently authorized 5,500 troops to 2,330 troops within three months and 1,800 within four months. The present level of military observers and civilian police personnel was maintained. The Council also authorized the Mission to exercise its good offices to help achieve national reconciliation within the framework of the 1993 Arusha Peace Agreement.

The force reduction had been proposed earlier by Rwanda—currently a member of the Security Council.

By undertaking monitoring tasks, UNAMIR will also support the Rwandese Government's "ongoing efforts to promote a climate of confidence and trust", the Council stated.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was asked to consult with the Governments of neighbouring countries, including Zaire, on the deployment of UN military observers on their territories.

AP by David Guttenfelder

Aid workers navigating their vehicle through a crowd of displaced persons in the Butare football stadium, after tens of thousands of Rwandese fled the nearby Kibeho camp.

UNAMIR also was to help the Government in "facilitating the voluntary and safe return of refugees and their reintegration" into their home communities, the Council stipulated. States and donor agencies were called on to give assistance for Rwanda's rehabilitation efforts.

In addition, UNAMIR would: support humanitarian deliveries and provide assistance in engineering, logistics, medical care and demining; help train a national police force until the Government enters into bilateral arrangements for other training programmes; and contribute to the security of UN agencies and the International Tribunal for Rwanda, as well as of humanitarian agencies in case of need.

The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to appoint a Special Envoy to carry out consultations regarding the holding of the regional Conference on Security, Stability and Development.

Shaharyar M. Khan, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Rwanda, told correspondents at Headquarters on 9 June that the new mandate reflected the fact that, although there had been two parties contending for power when UNAMIR was established in July 1994, now the UN was dealing with a single Government "which had stated its responsibility for the protection of its people".

He stressed: "Any effort at reconciliation in Rwanda must be based on the return of the nearly 2 million refugees" from Zaire, the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi. "If we are to see lasting harmony and stability, these refugees have to be persuaded to voluntarily come back in dignity and in safety", he said.

Referring to cross-border military infiltration into Rwanda as a major source of tension and destabilization, Mr. Khan underscored that it was very important to control or discipline military activity in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Their Governments wanted international support in dealing with that problem, he added.

'Radical changes'

Citing the end to the genocide, as well as positive steps recently taken by the Government, Mr. Boutros-Ghali on 4 June reported *(S/1995/457)* that the situation in Rwanda had "changed radically" since the civil war.

While the country was "now largely at peace" and a "long and arduous process of recovery" had begun, he cautioned nevertheless that the situation remained tense, with a lack of significant advances in national reconciliation.

Changes to the UNAMIR mandate, he said, should include "shifting the focus" from a peace-keeping to a confidence-building role and reducing troop strength. The Government, he added, had proposed a "different and more limited role" for UNAMIR, a final six-month extension, and a "drastic reduction" in strength, to 1,800 troops.

However, such a reduction, he said, would leave UNAMIR without the strength to perform its tasks adequately. It "must have the capability to discharge its functions effectively", he concluded. He recommended that the force level be reduced to 2,330, subject to further consultations with the Government.

Crisis at Kibeho

In the same report, while describing the 22 April events in Kibeho, in the south-western region of Gikongoro, the Secretary-General said the deaths had resulted from "firing by government forces, trampling and crushing during the stampede and machete attacks by hardliners in the camp, who assaulted and intimidated those who wished to leave".

> "The situation at Kibeho underscored the tensions and fears that remain just beneath the surface in Rwanda"

The deaths occurred when an estimated 80,000 displaced persons twice attempted to break out of a Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) cordon, after having spent five days on a single hill without adequate space, shelter, food or sanitation.

(Most displaced persons in the camp were ethnic Hutu. Hundreds of thousands of lives were lost during widespread violence that began in April 1994; most victims were minority Tutsi.)

According to the report, the UN had "reacted immediately" to the Kibeho tragedy, providing emergency medical assistance, evacuating the sick and injured, as well as internally displaced persons, and increasing the presence of UN troops at open relief centres, way stations and transit centres, and of its military observers to facilitate monitoring and enhance escort capability.

The situation at Kibeho, Mr. Boutros-Ghali declared, "underscored the tensions and fears that remain just beneath the surface in Rwanda".

Though the Government had been negotiating with the UN for their voluntary closure, it had launched the operation on 18 April, "without notice or consultation", in an attempt to cordon off and close the eight remaining camps in Gikongoro. The seven other camps closed "without serious incident", the report stated.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata on 24 April had declared that the action had brought *Opération Rétour*—an integrated inter-agency initiative launched on 29 December 1994 to facilitate the safe resettlement of Rwandans—"to a virtual standstill".

(Until then, it had been providing security for the travel of displaced persons back to their homes, protection once they reached them, and medical, food, water and sanitation assistance in the home communes.)

According to the Secretary-General, the Government had closed the camps out of concern that they were being used as "sanctuaries" by elements of the former government forces and militia. It had felt the camps were "a destabilizing factor and represented a security threat", he said.

As soon as the cordon was established, senior UNAMIR officials, including Special Representative Khan and the UNAMIR Force Commander, Major General Guy Tousignant, undertook to visit Kibeho and the surrounding areas on several occasions to assess the situation, urge restraint and help coordinate the activities of UN personnel and relief agencies.

Following the Kibeho tragedy, the Secretary-General immediately dispatched Aldo Ajello to Kigali as his Special Envoy. He visited Rwanda on 28 and 29 April and conveyed the Secretary-General's concern and urged the Government to undertake an impartial investigation. He had been assured that the Government would cooperate fully with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, which it had announced on 27 April would be set up to investigate the Kibeho tragedy.

Atrocities condemned

The Secretary-General's decision to dispatch a Special Envoy had been announced on 23 April in a statement in which he also expressed his "shock and horror at the indiscriminate killing of thousands" at the Kibeho camp.

Condemning that action in the strongest terms, he demanded "an immediate end to the atrocities". The next day, his Special Representative estimated the number killed at approximately 2,000.

The Security Council on 27 April also condemned the killings and welcomed the Rwandese Government's decision to establish an independent inquiry, with UN and other international participation.

In a statement by its President, Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, the Council said it was "encouraged" by the Government's decision to carry out a full investigation and bring to justice those responsible.

"Concerned by the generally deteriorating security situation", it stressed that the Government bears primary responsibility for maintaining security throughout the country and for the safety of internally displaced persons and returnees, as well as for ensuring respect for their basic human rights".

AP/Wide World Photos

UN peace-keepers attend to a wounded man following the violence at Kibeho.

The Government should intensify its "considerable efforts" at national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Council also expressed concern at "disturbing reports" of increased incursions into Rwanda, allegations of arms shipments and of former government forces being trained in a neighbouring country. It called on States to prevent incursions into Rwanda from their territories.

Concerned over the number of deaths resulting from overcrowding in Rwanda's prisons, the Council asked the Secretary-General to consider measures to improve conditions. International support was needed for re-establishing the justice system "as a contribution to confidence-building and the maintenance of law and order", it said.

Reiterating a call it had made on 27 February in resolution 978 (1995), the Council urged the arrest and detention of "persons against whom there is sufficient evidence of responsibility for acts within the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for Rwanda". The Secretary-General was asked to facilitate the rapid establishment of the Tribunal.

In keeping with recommendations adopted in February at the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, States should facilitate the return of refugees, the Council said. In this context, the Dar-es-Salaam trilateral agreement of 12 April 1995 on the voluntary repatriation of Rwandese refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania was welcomed.

The Council also reaffirmed its view that an international conference would contribute substantially to peace and security in the subregion, and welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to consult with concerned parties on holding a conference as early as possible.

Also on 27 April, the Secretary-General urged the Government to "refrain from the use of force" in dealing with the situation of some 1,000 internally displaced persons who had stayed behind in Kibeho following the killings. They were apparently refusing to leave and Rwandese authorities were refusing to allow any supplies through.

Humane treatment urged

UN High Commissioner Ogata on 24 April stated she was "appalled and outraged by the brutal events" at Kibeho that had left thousands dead and wounded, and forced tens of thousands to flee "with nothing but the clothes on their backs". She urged humane treatment of survivors and said UNHCR had redeployed staff and vehicles to the area to help with the emergency.

Although UNHCR did not work in the Rwandese camps for internally displaced, it did participate in *Opération Rétour*, "providing transport, aid and monitoring for internally displaced people who volunteered to go back to their homes", she said.

On 21 April, UNHCR had deplored the forcible closure of camps, warning of a "catastrophe" unless urgent assistance was delivered to the people who had regrouped on the hill after being driven from the Kibeho camp.

General Assembly President Amara Essy of Côte d'Ivoire also on 24 April said the violence was "a source of profound disquiet for Africa and the world", particularly for the UN and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which had "spared no efforts to help bring about the normalization of political and social life in Rwanda".

Commission reports

On 19 May, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded that the "tragedy at Kibeho" was neither planned by Rwandese authorities "nor was it an accident that could not have been prevented".

However, there was "sufficient reliable evidence" to establish that unarmed internally displaced persons had been subjected to "arbitrary deprivation of life and serious bodily harm" by RPA personnel, as well as by armed elements among the internally displaced themselves.

The reactions of RPA soldiers to the threat had been "disproportionate", with indiscriminate firing, as well as summary executions by individual troops. Because of "an inability to distinguish between hostile and non-hostile targets" during the night of 22 April, UNAMIR soldiers had been unable to respond, the Commission stated.

As a result of "logistic and time constraints", it had not been possible to determine the exact number of fatalities, according to the report. While evidence did corroborate that bodies had been buried outside the camp, an "unusual discrepancy between the various initial counts and estimates of fatalities and the actual number of non-fatal casualties" suggested that the initial fatality counts had been overestimated.

The Commission called on the Rwandese authorities to carry out a "thorough, prompt and impartial investigation of individual responsibilities within its armed forces". The UN system was asked to review its chain of command and operation procedures.

'Renewed tensions'

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in a 9 April report on UNAMIR *(S/1995/297)*, had warned that the progress achieved in Rwanda since the installation of the new Government on 19 July 1994 was "threatened by renewed tensions". The Government and the international community must put the country back "on the road to stability, reconciliation and reconstruction", he declared.

At the same time, those goals were "likely to remain elusive" as long as 2 million Rwandese remained in refugee camps outside their country. The Government should make "more determined efforts to foster a climate of trust and confidence and to create conditions that will encourage refugees and displaced persons not suspected of involvement in the genocide to believe that they can return to their homes in safety", he stated. Steps should be taken to bring those guilty of genocide to trial as soon as possible.

Speaking of a deteriorating security situation, he pointed to reports of possible infiltrators and the rearming of former government forces. In addition to a considerable decline in the repatriation of Rwandese refugees from Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, over 200,000 internally displaced persons remained in camps inside Rwanda "because they fear insecure conditions in their home communes or because of intimidation by extremist elements in the camps", he added.

Within the context of *Opération Rétour*, the Secretary-General reported that while activities to expedite the voluntary return of internally displaced persons were continuing, "certain quarters in Rwanda" viewed the camps "as breeding grounds for destabilization activities" and the Government was anxious to close them.

He called the establishment of an effective judicial system "one of the most pressing problems facing the Government". Despite efforts to follow correct procedures, arrests were sometimes arbitrary and individuals were being held without hope of timely trial proceedings, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said. According to the report, some 27,000 people were being detained in Rwanda's "desperately overcrowded prisons". Kigali prison, built for 1,500 inmates, alone held over 7,000 detainees in early April.

The Secretary-General reported that the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda had strengthened its monitoring activities. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights José Ayala-Lasso had launched an international appeal, with a view to assisting the Government to re-establish the judicial system, he said.

Emergency relief

The UN humanitarian programme had been maintaining an emphasis on the provision of emergency relief, as well as on activities meant to enable the Government to function effectively, the report stated, but progress had been affected negatively by "the paucity of resources" available.

To date, only a relatively small portion of contributions pledged at the

UN Development Programme (UNDP) round-table conference (Geneva, 18 and 19 January), as well as those pledged to the 1995 consolidated inter-agency humanitarian assistance appeal launched in January by the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, had been "converted into actual disbursements".

Stressing that the Government "can not by itself address all the problems facing the country", the Secretary-General said the assistance and cooperation of its neighbours and the international community were needed, and donors should "accelerate the flow of aid".

UNAMIR had been "working under additional pressure" due to the deterioration in the security situation and its troops had been "deliberately targeted" in the first such incidents since the end of the civil war, he noted.

In an 11 April statement, the Secretary-General had deplored "speeches of a highly inflammatory nature, and containing completely unfounded allegations" made against UNAMIR and the UN at a demonstration outside the Mission's headquarters. He particularly expressed regret at the fact that "some responsible officials in Rwanda" were reported to have made "unfortunate statements". All segments of Rwandese society should "exercise restraint at this critical time in order not to exacerbate tensions further", he urged.

Refugee problems

Shortly before the Kibeho events, the Secretary-General had appealed to Member States to take urgent actions to "achieve the enormous task of ensuring that all the refugees and the displaced persons in the Great Lakes region voluntarily return to their homes and communities". That would require the combined efforts of the countries of origin and of asylum, as well as the international community, he said in a 14 April report *(S/1995/304)* on security in the Rwandese refugee camps.

Food shortages in the camps had led to the beginnings of malnutrition among women and children, and refugees believed that the international community was using food as a weapon to force them to return to Rwanda, the Secretary-General reported. The deteriorating food situation was "a sign of serious fatigue" on the part of donor nations, and he appealed to them to "reverse this situation".

The plan of action adopted at the mid-February regional conference on assistance to refugees in the Great Lakes region had stressed voluntary repatriation as the preferred solution to the refugee problem.

Security in the camps and eradication of intimidation and blackmail of refugees, he stressed, were among desirable short-term measures. Solving the problem in the long run would require the combined efforts of African Governments and the international community, with the full involvement of the civil society.

> "Never should the world allow such a tragedy"

The Secretary-General also expressed concern over the closure of borders and attacks on refugee camps which, he said, were "in blatant disregard" of the Bujumbura agreement. States should act in accordance with those recommendations.

Genocide: One year ago

On 7 April, the Secretary-General, in conveying sympathy and condolences to the survivors of the genocide that began one year earlier in Rwanda, said: "Never should the world allow such a tragedy on our planet. Never should the perpetrators of such crimes be permitted to get away with impunity."

The international community must recommit itself to the "objective of a better world as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations and, to this end, reaffirm our collective faith 'in the dignity and worth of the human person'", he continued. It should intensify its efforts for reconstruction and reconciliation in Rwanda as a most fitting and enduring tribute to those who had lost their lives. He pledged that the UN would continue to support "all endeavours aimed at building a new Rwandese society based on tolerance, harmony and justice".

Special Representative Khan on 4 April had expressed the hope that the first anniversary of the ethnic massacres would be marked peacefully. Overcrowding in prisons and the growing number of arrests by the authorities remained sources of tension, he said.

Tribunal begins work

An active investigation into acts of genocide and serious violations of humanitarian law, focusing on approximately 400 identified suspects, was being conducted both inside and outside of Rwanda, the Secretary-General said in a 30 June report *(S/1995/533)* on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

At the Tribunal's first plenary session (26-30 June, The Hague, the Netherlands), Laïty Kama of Senegal was elected President and Yakov A. Ostrovky of the Russian Federation as Vice-President. The Tribunal's rules of procedure and evidence were adopted as well.

The session was held at The Hague because arrangements for the Tribunal's seat in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, had not yet been finalized. The Secretary-General hoped this would be done soon.

On 25 May, the General Assembly completed the election of six judges for the Tribunal's Trial Chamber, from a list of 12 candidates established by the Security Council in resolution 989 (1995) of 24 April.

The Tribunal—consisting of two Trial Chambers, a five-judge Appeals Chamber, a Prosecutor and a Registry—is mandated to prosecute persons who committed acts of genocide and other serious violations of humanitarian law between 1 January and 31 December 1994. ■

BURUNDI

Ethnic violence reported

With reports of ethnic violence still emerging from Burundi, the UN and other international and regional organizations have continued to monitor the troubling situation in that Central African nation.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 4 April stressed that preventive UN action was needed as reports of violent incidents in parts of Burundi continued to circulate.

His Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, sought a meeting of political and other leaders in the capital city of Bujumbura in early April to address the situation.

Escalating violence was the subject of Security Council action on 29 March, when it deplored the ethnic killings that had caused thousands to flee their homes. The activities of "extremist elements", who were attempting to destabilize the country, were condemned.

On 6 April, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights José Ayala Lasso had condemned continuing human rights violations in Burundi which had gone "largely unpunished".

"The international community has to act now if it wants to avoid in Burundi the repetition of the tragedy of Rwanda", he warned. Preventive human rights action—aimed at promoting respect for human rights, and strengthening democracy, tolerance and the rule of law—was "indispensable".

Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of Brazil was appointed Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi on 21 April by the Commission on Human Rights.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 20 April expressed "deep concern" over the resurgence of political and institutional crises in Burundi, more particularly the recent outbreak of violence, political assassinations and acts of ethnic cleansing.

The Foreign Ministers of the Mov ment of Non-Aligned Countries, at Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinatir Bureau (Bandung, Indonesia, 25-2 April), citing the "immense huma suffering and extensive materi damage" caused by recent develo ments in Burundi, supported ongoir efforts to effect national reconciliatic through confidence-building pr grammes.

In Bujumbura on 10 June, th Ministers of Defence and Security the States members of the Econom Community of the Great Lakes Cou tries voiced "grave concern at the wo sening security situation as a result the proliferation of arms in the sul region".

On 24 June, the European Unio reaffirmed the need for the UN and th OAU to convene a conference o peace, security and stability in th Great Lakes region. ■

SOMALIA

Small unit monitors situation

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 18 April announced the creation of a small political office to monitor the situation in Somalia and keep contact with the parties concerned "to the extent possible".

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in a letter to the Security Council President *(S/1995/322)*, recalled that he had reported on 28 March that the size and mandate of any UN political presence in Mogadishu would "depend on whether the Somali parties wanted the United Nations to play a facilitating or mediating role and were ready to cooperate with it".

The retention of a full-time Special Representative "cannot be justified at the present time", he said, in view of the "limited possibilities" for UN political efforts related to Somalia. Therefore, Victor Gbeho of Ghana, who had held that position since July 1994, would be returning home.

On 6 April, the Council had welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to retain "a small political mission, should the Somali parties so wish, to assist them in coming together in national reconciliation".

On 31 May, the Secretary-General further reported *(S/1995/451)* that he had twice taken the necessary steps to dispatch special envoys, in late April and early May, to request the views of Somali leaders concerning a UN political presence in their country.

That effort, he went on, "has yielded no results, because of the opposition of the two principal leaders". Under those circumstances, he had decide that the UN political office concerne with Somalia, currently operating fro Nairobi, should remain there until th situation improved in Somalia.

It was worth noting, he conclude that a "wide range" of Somali leade had "favourably welcomed" his inter tion to set up a UN political office.

He had issued a new set of securit guidelines for Mogadishu, based on th recommendations of a security asses ment mission sent there, limiting U staff members' stay in the Somali cap ital for no more than three days week.

"The instability and unpredictabilit of security conditions" there, h added, had recently "severely cu tailed" visits by international staff.

Factions asked to resolve differences

Embargo Committee established

In extending the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 15 September 1995, the Security Council on 30 June stressed that continued international support for the peace process was "contingent on immediate actions by the Liberian parties to peacefully resolve their differences and achieve national reconciliation".

After five years of civil war and the sustained international and regional efforts towards peace, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said it was "regrettable that the Liberian political and factional leaders have still not laid down their arms for the greater good of their country".

The parties had been given "many chances" to implement steps towards peace. He called on the leaders once again "to give peace a chance, to save innocent civilians from death and suffering, and to avoid the continuing destruction of Liberia as a result of their inability to settle their differences".

In adopting resolution 1001 (1995), the Council urged the parties to use the mandate extension period to make serious and substantial progress towards implementing the 1994 Akosombo and Accra Agreements, particularly their provisions on installation of the Council of State, re-establishment of a comprehensive and effective cease-fire, disengagement of all forces, and the creation of a timetable for the implementation of all other aspects of the agreements, in particular the disarmament process.

If those steps were not taken, the Council declared its intention not to renew the UNOMIL mandate. If, however, significant progress in the peace process was achieved, the Council was ready to consider restoring UNOMIL to its full strength, with appropriate adjustment of its mandate and its relationship with the Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Council urged the ECOWAS Ministers of the Committee of Nine to reconvene as soon as possible a meeting of the Liberian parties and political leaders to resolve the outstanding issues of political settlement.

All States were reminded to comply strictly with the weapons embargo instituted by the Security Council in 1992. Facilitation of delivery of humanitarian aid was also asked.

In resolution 985 (1995) adopted on 13 April, the Security Council had extended the mandate of UNOMIL until 30 June, urging all States to comply with the 1992 embargo on the supply and delivery of weapons and military equipment to Liberia, and established a committee to monitor the embargo's effectiveness and recommend ways to respond to violations.

UNOMIL is the first UN peace-keeping mission to be undertaken in cooperation with an operation set up by a regional organization. The Mission, established under Council resolution 866 (1993), was mandated to work with ECOMOG to implement the 1993 Cotonou Peace Agreement, which provided for a cease-fire, disarmament and demobilization of the parties, and holding of national elections. The Liberian conflict began in 1990 when the Government, headed by then President Samuel Doe, was overthrown.

"Many felt that the Liberian people and combatants were tired of the war and that the peace process would be relatively easy to implement if the cooperation of the faction leaders could be secured." However, their deep mistrust of one another, perhaps influenced by external support, and an unwillingness to share power, even under transitional arrangements, kept them from extending the necessary cooperation, the Secretary-General said. ■

An 'endless nightmare'

The struggle for power in Liberia had turned into "an endless nightmare" for the Liberian people, inflicting tremendous hardship on neighbouring countries as well, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali told the Summit of Heads of State of ECOWAS, held on 17 May in Abuja, Nigeria.

Since 1989, the "sterile rivalries" of Liberia's factions had killed more than 150,000 Liberians. More than 1.5 million Liberians had been internally displaced, and more than 850,000 had fled to neighbouring countries.

The Secretary-General said: "The fact that the warring factions, despite our common efforts, have so far shown no sign of real political will to resolve their differences is a matter of deep disappointment to the international community, to the United Nations and, no doubt, to your organization.

"The international community is pinning its hopes on you to find a practical way to ensure compliance with the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in its resolution 788 (1992). The neighbouring States need to bring to bear the full force of their influence to ensure that the Liberian faction and political leaders adhere to the provisions of the Accra Agreement."

Positive developments welcomed despite delays in peace process

Initial deployment of UN infantry battalions, improved access for humanitarian assistance, and a continuing, if fragile cease-fire in the strife-torn southern African nation of Angola were welcomed as "positive developments" by the Security Council on 15 June.

Despite what was described as "considerable progress" in implementing the 20 November 1994 Lusaka Protocol, the Council expressed concern that the peace process was lagging behind schedule.

The lack of progress in mine clearance was also cited by Council President Detlev Graf zu Rantzau of Germany in a letter *(S/1995/487)* to the Secretary-General. He said that had "an impact not only on the deployment" of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III), but also on "the ability of the population to return to their homes and resume agricultural activity".

Within that context, Council members endorsed the Secretary-General's call for parties to "reinforce their recent actions" in mine clearance and road and bridge repair, and urged international support for those efforts.

The Council stressed that modalities for forming the "new integrated armed forces" should be worked out, and urged that preparations begin for quartering of troops of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the withdrawal to barracks of the Government's rapid reaction police.

Strongly supporting the ongoing dialogue between Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA President Jonas Savimbi, Council members encouraged further consultation between the two, who had met on 6 May in Lusaka.

On 12 June, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, told the press that the political task in Angola was to "break down the wall of distrust between the two parties".

Although the leaders were in regular contact, problems remained, he said, recalling that Angola had been the "longest lasting African conflict with the greatest number of casualties".

UNAVEM III was established under resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February to help restore peace and achieve national reconciliation on the basis of the 1991 Bicesse Peace Accords, the Lusaka Protocol and relevant Council resolutions. It was authorized to deploy a maximum of 7,000 military personnel, in addition to 350 military and 260 police observers.

The Lusaka Protocol signalled the end to 20 years of civil conflict in Angola, which had left some 600,000 people dead and 3 million internally displaced, with another 300,000 as refugees, according to estimates of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

AP/Wide World Photos

Angolans cheering UN peace-keepers in June in Uige on a road recently cleared of mines.

'A new and promising phase'

In a 4 June progress report *(S/1995/458)*, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol had entered "a new and promising phase".

Despite the parties' registering of complaints, including small-scale attacks and aggressive patrolling, the cease-fire "continued generally to hold", he reported. Violations had decreased and no major incidents had been reported.

On 11 May, the Joint Commission—the principal body in charge of the Protocol's implementation—had established the future strength of the integrated *Forças Armadas Angolanas* at 90,000 soldiers, of whom 74,000 would be ground troops provided in equal numbers by the two parties.

The Commission had also continued to monitor political, military and humanitarian developments relating to the Protocol's implementation. At a special meeting on 18 May, it focused on the opening of roads and the free circulation of persons and goods, the Secretary-General said.

UNAVEM had strongly urged the Government and UNITA to expedite mine-clearance operations, which had been initiated in various parts of the country.

Civilian observers, who monitor the activities of the national police, visit detention centres and liaise with local authorities, were receiving only varying degrees of support, according to the Secretary-General, who also saw "little progress so far in quartering the Government's rapid reaction police".

Recent political progress, he went on, had "given a new impetus to humanitarian activities in support of the peace process". Headway in opening cost-efficient over-land routes for the delivery of assistance was cited.

Humanitarian agencies also "registered an improvement in nutritional conditions in a few areas", although overall food aid requirements were "still considerable". As the peace process gathered momentum, the role of humanitarian assistance acquired "additional importance", he concluded.

Increased cooperation sought

On 11 May, the Security Council had indicated satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, welcomed the ongoing deployment of UNAVEM support units, and stressed the importance of a timely deployment of the infantry battalions. However, it remained "concerned by the slow progress in other areas".

In a statement by Council President Jean-Bernard Mérimée of France, it also stressed the need for increased cooperation of the Government and UNITA with the UN in carrying out all major provisions of the Protocol, as well as relevant Council resolutions.

It welcomed the 6 May Lusaka meeting between President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi, commended the efforts of Special Representative Beye, the three observer States—Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States—the States in the region and, in particular, President Fredrick Chiluba of Zambia for helping bring about the meeting.

"A marked improvement in the overall political climate in the country and in the attitude of the parties" was noted by the Secretary-General on 3 May *(S/1995/350)*. Those positive developments had to be "consolidated and sustained", he added.

Reiterating a warning made in his 7 April report *(S/1995/274)*, he said he would "not hesitate to recommend to the Council that the deployment of the troops be postponed or stopped if the parties fail to fulfil their commitments" under the Lusaka Protocol and Council resolutions. Improved security conditions had made new areas accessible to humanitarian agencies, and continuing efforts by UNAVEM to accelerate the start of country-wide demining were also reported.

> "A marked improvement in the political climate was noted"

At a 20 April session of the Joint Commission in Luanda, the parties had agreed on the principle of "global incorporation" of UNITA soldiers into the national army, to be followed by gradual demobilization until the Angolan Armed Forces reached the level of 90,000 troops, it was reported.

On 13 April, the Council welcomed progress in a number of important areas, including liaison with UNITA, completion of the first phase of disengagement, and discussions of ways to incorporate UNITA into the national army.

In a statement by its President, Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, the Council declared that a number of developments gave "cause for concern", including reports of continuing military actions and preparations, and recent attacks on personnel of UNAVEM and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Council wanted increased cooperation with the UN to ensure the safety of UNAVEM III and NGO personnel.

Political will needed

In the 7 April report, the Secretary-General had stated that "after weeks of frustrating delays, the pace of implementation of the Lusaka Protocol has increased". That progress represented "only a beginning", and further resolute steps were needed to ensure that the peace process could be pursued with confidence, he stressed.

The fragility of the cease-fire, reports of military preparations and major troop movements, and indications of the continued acquisition of weapons from abroad were causes for concern. Recent attacks on unarmed UN observers and NGO personnel "raise doubts about the willingness of the parties to cooperate in good faith", he added.

UN efforts to assist in implementing the Lusaka Protocol "must be matched by political will and concrete action on the part of the Government and UNITA", he declared. It would be impossible to deploy troops in May if the parties did not provide essential logistical support. He warned that he would recommend deployment be postponed or stopped should the parties not fulfil their commitments.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also warned "against undue expectations that the arrival of United Nations troops will in itself solve the pressing problems that the Angolans must resolve themselves". The troops could play a useful role in fostering "a climate of mutual trust and confidence", but they could not perform the tasks that belonged to the parties themselves.

All necessary conditions for deployment must be fulfilled in a timely manner by the Angolans themselves, or the schedule would be affected and the peace process hindered, he stated. The parties would have to "bear full responsibility for the resulting delays".

In a 12 April communiqué to the Council President, Angola registered concern over the Secretary-General's report on the assessment of the Government's execution of its obligation in the peace process, and reiterated its "firm decision to continue its commitment in good faith" to its implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. ■

Draft on East Jerusalem not adopted by Security Council

United States vetoes text

A draft resolution calling upon Israel—the occupying Power—to rescind its orders for expropriation of some 53 hectares of land in East Jerusalem was not adopted by the Security Council on 17 May, due to a veto by one of its permanent members—the United States. The vote was 14 in favour to 1 against.

The text would have confirmed that Israel's expropriation orders were "invalid and in violation" of relevant Council resolutions and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war.

The United States said it had exercised its veto for the first time in five years, "reluctantly, but without hesitation", on a matter of principle. (On 7 November 1989, it had rejected a draft, strongly deploring Israeli policies and practices violating the human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.)

As a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, the United States said it believed that direct talks between the parties were the "only path to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace" in the region. By declaring itself on the issue of Jerusalem, the Council would have violated that principle. The issue must be resolved between the parties, "with the support of the international community, but without its interference", it said.

"We have not voted against this resolution because we support Israel's decision on land expropriation: we do not", the United States declared. "This vote is a result of our long-held and long-stated position regarding what we can and cannot support in this Council."

The Russian Federation—the other co-sponsor of the peace process—said that any action to "alter the status quo" in Jerusalem prior to negotiations on the final status of Palestinian territories was "contravening the spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and the peace process as a whole".

Palestine said the United States veto—a "clear backing of the illegal Israeli action and an attempt to legalize it"—would be counterproductive, complicating the peace process.

Israel stated that the matter was for the parties concerned, based on the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993, and that the outcome of Council deliberations was appropriate. It called upon its partners to "accelerate the progress towards peace, build mutual confidence, combat terrorism and implement the agreements" which had been signed.

The voting was preceded by a three-day Council debate on the situation in the occupied Arab territories in which

AP/Wide World Photos

Palestinian women at an Israeli march through Jerusalem on 25 May.

AP/Wide World Photos

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres *(right)* and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza in May discussing the peace process.

some 40 representatives took part. Convened at Headquarters on 12, 15 and 16 May, in response to a request by Morocco and the United Arab Emirates, the meetings focused on Israel's settlement policies, its land expropriation orders for East Jerusalem, and recent excavations under the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Resolution 996: UNDOF extended

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)—established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire between Israeli and Syrian forces—was renewed by the Security Council on 30 May for another six months, until 30 November.

By unanimously adopting resolution 996 (1995), the Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, which urged a just and durable peace settlement in the Middle East conflict.

In a statement by its President, Jean-Bertrand Mérimée of France, the Council also confirmed the Secretary-General's view that the situation in the Middle East, "despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector", continued to be "potentially dangerous" and was likely to remain so, "unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached".

On 17 May, the Secretary-General had reported *(S/1995/398)* that UNDOF maintained close contacts with the military liaison staffs of Israel and Syria, but both sides continued to impose some restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement. The cease-fire, however, had been maintained and the operational situation in the area remained calm, he said.

Concern over hostilities

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 16 June expressed deep concern over "recent escalation of hostilities" along the Israeli-Lebanese border, which again had claimed civilian casualties. He urged all parties to exercise restraint and, in particular, refrain from attacking civilians.

Earlier, two attacks on Israeli buses in the Gaza Strip on 9 April, in which several people had been killed and dozens wounded, were strongly condemned by the Secretary-General on 10 April. Those terrorist acts, he said, could "only serve to undermine the confidence required to sustain the peace process".

He also commended Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for "continuing their negotiations today, in an effort to implement fully the Declaration of Principles".

> “The peace process must go hand in hand with observance of human rights”

Unless progress was made in the enjoyment of human rights by all the inhabitants of the occupied territories, support for the peace process would "erode and give way to despair", so stated the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories on 24 May, as it completed a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria (13-23 May).

All the parties concerned had to endeavour to build a "truly meaningful culture of respect for human rights", so that recent significant achievements might enable the people of the region to "live together in dignity, peace and mutual respect", the Special Committee said.

Progress in the peace process had to "go hand in hand with full compliance" with all relevant UN resolutions and universally accepted standards of human rights, it stressed.

During the mission, the three-member Special Committee—Malaysia, Senegal and Sri Lanka—collected testimony which supported the view that the situation in the occupied territories had not improved, with economic and social conditions deteriorating.

A "continuing source of tension", it observed, was the existence and expansion of Israeli settlements, as well as "continuing acts of violence perpetrated by settlers, often armed, who were protected by the Israeli Army".

Two symposia

A comprehensive assistance programme aimed at removing inequities in the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people would help create a "stable base for the negotiating process", which remained the "only path towards lasting peace" in the Middle East, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali stated on 28 June. In a message to the UN Seminar on Palestinian Administrative, Managerial and Financial Needs and Challenges (28-30 June, Paris), he also expressed concern over the "slack pace of disbursements of contributions" pledged for Palestinian development.

Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, told the Seminar that an "effective administration under the Palestine Authority" would be an "essential step towards self-determination".

Discussions focused on administrative needs and challenges before the Palestinian Authority: public financial management; development of Palestinian municipalities and public utilities; and institutional capacity for human resources development and management.

An annual non-governmental organization (NGO) symposium for the North American region on Palestine was held in New York (19-21 June). ■

'Good overall picture' provided of military weapons capabilities

The Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991), has reported that, while Iraq had not yet given a credible accounting of its military biological activities, it had a good overall picture of the extent of Iraq's past programmes in the ballistic missile and chemical weapon areas, and that the essential elements of its proscribed capabilities had been disposed of.

In a 20 June report *(S/1995/494)*, the Special Commission stated that although some issues had still to be resolved in those areas, the uncertainties arising from them did not present a pattern consistent with efforts to conceal a programme to retain proscribed weapons. It was also confident that through its ongoing monitoring and verification system, it could detect any attempt to reconstitute a proscribed capability in those areas.

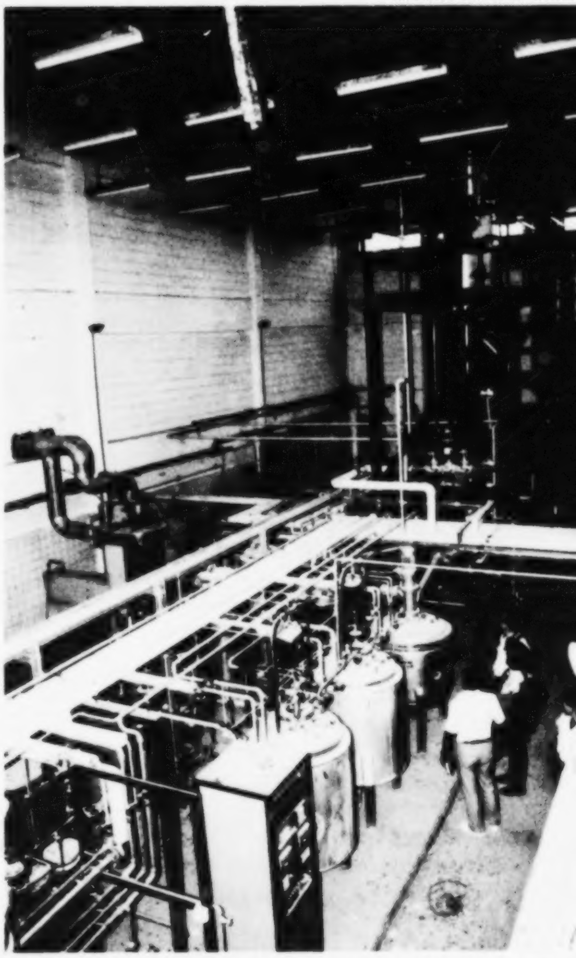
To ensure the comprehensiveness of the system, Iraq had to respond satisfactorily to the Commission's concerns regarding its past biological weapons programme, the report stated. Until then, the Commission could not report to the Council that Iraq had met the terms laid down in paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991). Iraq had said that for it to see value in cooperating with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it needed to be convinced that there was a prospect for such implementation.

Evidence available to the Commission had established that Iraq had obtained or sought to obtain all the materials required to produce biological warfare agents, the report stated. With Iraq's failure to account for all those items, the only conclusion that could be drawn was that it had purchased and used them at least in part for proscribed purposes. The Commission had received documentary evidence from other Governments in support of that conclusion.

While all the elements of a system for biological monitoring were in place and monitoring was proceeding, the Commission could not be sure that it was comprehensive, because it had been unable to obtain a credible account of Iraq's past military biological activities. Since April 1995, Iraq had told the Commission that it would be prepared to address the matter in late June 1995.

Indeed, on 1 July, during high-level talks between the Commission and Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq admitted that it had had an offensive biological warfare programme and had produced and stored large quantities of the warfare agents botulinum toxin and anthrax. Iraq promised to provide to the Commission a "full, final and complete disclosure of all aspects" of the programme by the end of July.

UN Photo 158665/H. Arvidso



A UN biological weapons team, shortly after the end of the Persian Gulf war in 1991, visited an Iraqi facility.

Other weapons

The Commission stated that it had essentially complete
the accounting of Iraq's proscribed ballistic missile capabi
ties and their repair and production facilities. Missile monito
ing was now operational. Investigations would continue unt
the Commission was satisfied that it had obtained as detaile
a picture as possible of all aspects of Iraq's past programme
and current capabilities.

The Commission also reported completion of the destru
tion of Iraq's identified chemical weapon facilities, stockpile
and production equipment, and that its chemical monito
ing system was already operational.

Over a period of two years, 480,000 litres of chemical wa
fare agents, 28,000 chemical munitions and 648 barrels
some 45 different precursor chemicals had been destroye

An effective export/import monitoring mechanism had been designed to prevent the resumption of Iraq's prohibited chemical activities.

Rolf Ekéus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, told reporters that the Commission's 10 April report *(S/1995/284)* had highlighted the discovery that Iraq, just before the Persian Gulf war, had systematically acquired components for the production of a new type of chemical agent—VX—a warfare agent that was ten times as potent as Sarin.

Iraq, he said, had initially disclosed that it was doing research work on the agent in small quantities, but had admitted later that it had produced 260 kilograms of VX. The Commission had found that Iraq had imported precursor chemicals sufficient to produce 200,000 kilograms.

An expert team from the Commission had been able to verify broadly that one of the precursors for producing VX had been disposed of in trenches outside Baghdad. The Commission had ideas of how to verify the disposal of the second precursor and believed that the question of VX was under control.

There were some remaining uncertainties, but these were not consistent with systematic efforts to conceal a programme to retain prohibited weapons, Mr. Ekéus stated. They were not of any magnitude to affect the assessment as to whether Iraq had completed the substantive actions required of it under the cease-fire resolution.

The task of establishing ongoing monitoring and verification in the biological area had also taken longer, because Iraq's declarations about its dual-use capabilities were initially incomplete and the data varied from declaration to declaration to the point of contradiction, according to the report.

Iraq was also unable to account definitively for all the materials and items that might have been used and known to have been acquired by it. The Commission assessed that Iraq had obtained or sought to obtain all the items required to produce biological warfare agents. Its failure to account for all those items led the Commission to believe that they had been purchased and used in part for the production of agents for biological weapons.

IAEA report

The IAEA, in an 11 April report *(S/1995/287)* on the monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with Council resolution 687 (1991), expressed confidence that the essential components of Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme had been destroyed.

That assessment had been based not only on the verification of Iraqi statements, but also on information gathered during inspections provided by suppliers and Member States and, to a great extent, on an analysis of the large cache of original Iraqi documentation that had been seized by previous inspection missions.

> “Iraq in July conceded that it had an offensive biological warfare programme”

The IAEA stated that its extensive knowledge of the scope of Iraq's past nuclear weapons programme had facilitated the design and implementation of a credible and sustainable plan for the ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with relevant Council resolutions. That plan had been operational since the end of August 1994 and IAEA's Nuclear Monitoring Group had been continuously present in Iraq since then. The Group had conducted more than 160 inspections at some 70 facilities, including 23 not previously inspected, the report stated.

Iraq rejects resolution 986

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Al-Sahaf informed the Secretary-General on 15 May that his Government would not implement Council resolution 986 (1995) because it objected, *inter alia*, to the proportion of petroleum to be exported via the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline and to the modalities for distribution of humanitarian relief in three northern governorates.

That resolution, adopted unanimously on 14 April, had authorized States to permit the import of up to $1 billion in Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products every 90 days. The Council had acted after expressing concern over the "serious nutritional and health situation of the Iraqi populations".

After the adoption of resolution 687 (1991), setting out complex and detailed conditions for a cease-fire following the 1991 Persian Gulf conflict, the UN has periodically reviewed the sanctions regime against Iraq. Until the Council action on 14 April, no significant change had occurred with regard to easing the sanctions.

Kuwaiti prisoners

On 3 May, Kuwait told the Security Council President that Iraq was "persisting in its refusal" to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Iraqi prisons. (It was reported by the Kuwait National Committee for Missing-in-Action-Prisoners of War Affairs that there were still 625 detainees in Iraq from ten countries.)

Iraq was making a serious effort to return property seized during its occupation of Kuwait, the letter added, but it had not yet returned some 200 armoured vehicles, the HAWK missile system, official documents from Kuwaiti government offices, and private-sector property worth millions of dollars.

Critical food shortages and international indifference were threatening the lives of more than 1 million of the most vulnerable people in Iraq, the World Food Programme reported on 5 May. ■

Efforts to restore confidence asked by Security Council

The Security Council has called for efforts to reduce the number of foreign troops, as well as defence spending, in Cyprus so as to help restore confidence between the two parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces.

In adopting resolution 1000 (1995) on 23 June, the Council also extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further period of six months, until 31 December. It requested the Secretary-General to keep under review the structure and strength of UNFICYP, with a view to its possible restructuring.

The Council, expressing concern about the modernization and upgrading of military forces in Cyprus and the lack of progress towards a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops, urged once again all concerned to commit themselves to such reduction.

It also expressed concern about the failure of military authorities on both sides to prohibit live ammunition or weapons, other than hand-held ones, along the cease-fire lines, and the firing of weapons within sight or hearing of the buffer zone. It called on those authorities to discuss the matter with UNFICYP.

Both sides were also asked to reach agreement on the extension of the 1989 unmanning agreement to cover all areas of the buffer zone where they were in close proximity.

The Council urged the leaders of both communities to promote tolerance and reconciliation and welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to continue contacts with the two leaders to find common ground for a resumption of direct talks.

In a 15 June report *(S/1995/488)*, the Secretary-General stated that while the situation had remained generally calm, the continuing quiet should not obscure the fact that there was merely a cease-fire in Cyprus, not peace.

Excessive levels of armaments and forces in the country and the rate at which they were being strengthened were a cause for serious concern, he went on. Security Council call for a significant reduction in foreign troops and defence spending had not been heeded. Nor had it been possible to make progress even on modest measures aimed at reducing confrontation between the two sides along the cease-fire lines.

> “Leaders were asked to promote tolerance and reconciliation”

The northern part of the island, with its garrison of some 30,000 Turkish troops and 4,500 Turkish Cypriot troops, remained one of the most highly militarized areas in the world in terms of the ratio between the numbers of military personnel and civilians, it was stated.

The Cyprus National Guard, though by far the smaller of the two military establishments facing each other across the buffer zone, had continued to upgrade its strength by acquiring Exocet missiles and planned to purchase a significant number of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and an air defence system, the report added.

UNFICYP had continued its efforts with both sides towards a return to normal conditions and had promoted bi-communal contacts, the report stated. It had increased the space available for bi-communal activities at the Ledra Palace Hotel and had provided a journalist's meeting room where members of the press from both sides could meet without formality.

UNFICYP had also continued to provide humanitarian support to the 520 Greek Cypriots and 234 Maronites residing in the northern part of the island, the report stated. It assisted in organizing visits and contacts between family members on both sides of the island and in ensuring that permanent moves to the south and the north were voluntary.

Regular visits to Turkish Cypriots residing in the southern part had also been continued, the report added. Family meetings with their relatives in the north, which had not previously been permitted by the Turkish Cypriot authorities, had resumed.

Many of the specialized agencies continued to provide technical assistance programmes to Cyprus, the report stated. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) had completed a project to strengthen the competitiveness of Cypriot industry.

It had also executed and completed, under the Nicosia master plan, a photogrammetric measurement of the Venetian walls of Nicosia, with the participation of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. It was likely that a restoration effort, based on UNDP's report, would be undertaken soon.

UNDP was also continuing talks with both parties for a mission to assess the restoration requirements for the Apostolos Andreas Monastery on the Karpas peninsula.

The UN Drug Control Programme had provided equipment worth $50,000 to the forensic laboratory of the Government of Cyprus to assist in drug control. ■

Two parties asked to facilitate voter identification process

The Security Council on 30 June stressed the need for Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) to refrain from any actions that hindered the implementation of the settlement plan for the referendum in Western Sahara, and asked the Secretary-General to persuade the two parties to resume their participation in the plan's implementation.

By resolution 1002 (1995), the Council also extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 September 1995, while expressing concern that implementation of the settlement plan had been further delayed.

The Council asked that it be kept informed of any significant delays in the pace of the identification process or other developments that would call into question the start of the transitional period—15 November 1995.

The Council also endorsed the Secretary-General's "benchmarks" contained in his 19 May report and recommendations of a six-member mission sent to the region from 3 to 9 June.

Resolution 995: Mandate extension

The Council on 26 May, by resolution 995 (1995), had extended the mandate of MINURSO until 30 June and decided to send a mission to the region to accelerate implementation of the settlement plan.

Led by Legwaila Joseph Legwaila of Botswana, it also included Emilio J. Cárdenas of Argentina, Hervé Ladsous of France, Gerardo Martínez Blanco of Honduras, Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman, and Karl F. Inderfurth of the United States.

On 21 June, the mission reported *(S/1995/498)* that the continued suspicion and lack of trust between the two parties had politicized technical problems that could have been resolved easily with goodwill.

The time required for the identification process and other aspects of the settlement plan had been underestimated. There was a real risk that the process would have to be extended beyond the scheduled dates.

> "Widely differing positions and preoccupations have led to prolonged consultations"

The mission recommended that both parties abandon their insistence on reciprocity in the number and operation of identification centres, and refrain from blaming their lack of cooperation on the other side. Since moving identification teams and their equipment around the desert was impractical, additional teams should be mobilized in temporary fixed centres.

The mission also recommended that consultations take place on the exchange of prisoners of war and the release of political detainees.

On 19 May, the Secretary-General had reported *(S/1995/404)* that while the cease-fire had been observed since 6 September 1991, the widely differing positions and preoccupations of the parties had led to prolonged consultations in the search for compromises. While the complexity and sensitivity of the identification process had not been foreseen and it had taken ten months to process less than one third of the persons to be identified, many barriers that seemed insurmountable had been overcome.

Parties disagree

On 23 June, POLISARIO had announced the suspension of its participation in the identification operation and the recall of all Saharan observers until credibility was restored to the peace process. That was because, it added, of the trial and conviction by a military court of eight Saharan civilians, who had participated in a "peaceful rally for Western Saharan independence". It also condemned Morocco's intention to have 100,000 Moroccan settlers participate in the voter identification operation.

POLISARIO called for: the immediate release of all political prisoners; an end to the campaign of repression against the Western Saharan people; and strict monitoring of the northern border to ensure that no foreigners were moved into the Territory.

Morocco on 26 June stated that POLISARIO'S decision to suspend participation in the identification operation and the threats of resumed hostilities had "dashed all hopes" raised by the mission and the Council efforts. That "unilateral decision" confirmed that the other party was planning to withdraw from the process for settling the Saharan question.

Morocco also stated that POLISARIO, having concluded that the process would "clearly show that it accounted for only a small minority of the Saharan population", had decided to claim that the UN was incapable of ensuring the objectivity and neutrality of the operation. ■

Legislative and local elections overseen by UN and OAS

The Caribbean nation of Haiti on 25 June conducted an initial round of legislative and local democratic elections—the first since the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power and the restoration of that country's constitutional Government in October 1994.

A spokesman at UN Headquarters said on 26 June that the security in polling places had been "excellent overall", despite some reported incidents of violence.

The UN Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) provided technical assistance and security support for the balloting, while monitors from the Organization of American States (OAS) were responsible for observing the voting.

Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, said he was "particularly pleased" with the work of UNMIH, especially the civilian police monitors, many of whom worked for 20 hours straight on election day, often in difficult circumstances.

In December 1990, under the supervision of the UN, Haiti held free and democratic elections, in which Mr. Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest, won the Presidency by a 67.5 per cent landslide. After his ousting in September 1991 following a military coup, the UN was involved in three years of complex efforts, including mediation, negotiations, dispatch of missions, sanctions and, finally, deployment of the Multinational Force (MNF). President Aristide returned to Haiti on 15 October 1994.

Coalition wins majority

According to results of the 25 June preliminary voting, a coalition associated with President Aristide—the *Lavalas* Political Platform—won a majority in all of Haiti's nine departments. The main cities were to have a *Lavalas* mayor, including the capital of Port-au-Prince, where incumbent mayor Evans Paul, from the National Front for Change and Democracy, had been defeated by a popular singer, Emmanuel Charlemagne. Run-off municipal and communal elections are scheduled for mid-August.

AP Photo

Workers set up a campaign rally.

On 29 June, the Secretary-General reported *(A/49/926)* that the early stages of the election campaign had been "generally satisfactory", although it had begun in a "climate made heavy by protests, confusion over which candidates had been accepted, and threats of violence". There had been "sporadic acts of violence, some of them serious", he said.

The staffing of electoral offices in some areas had been the "subject of dispute", giving rise to acts of intimidation. The registration process had also been "marred by threats, acts of intimidation, stone-throwing, and theft and attempted theft of registration material", the Secretary-General reported. The electoral process had later stabilized, he added.

National consensus

On 13 April, the Secretary-General had declared that peace and security in Haiti required dialogue, tolerance, cooperation and reconciliation—a "national political consensus". Elections should be seen "as a step to achieve that consensus", he reported *(S/1995/305)*.

Although results achieved so far gave "reason to hope" that the UN operation in Haiti, notwithstanding its broader mandate, would be successful, much depended on the Haitian people and their leaders, the Secretary-General observed.

They would have to rehabilitate their nation's institutions and economy. The state of the economy was "immensely important", since it would be a "critical test of the success—or otherwise—of the whole process which is now unfolding", he stated.

The UN would assist the Government in that field. For that reason, the Secretary-General said Cristián Ossa had been appointed Deputy Special Representative and concurrently Resident Representative of the UN

Development Programme (UNDP). That was the first time that the UN had "linked a peace-keeping mission to development activities in this manner", he said.

Fair elections urged

The Security Council on 24 April stressed the "crucial importance of free, fair and secure elections for the democratic future of Haiti", and urged the Government to take "all necessary steps" to ensure their success.

In particular, it wanted the Haitian Government to "register as many voters as possible" prior to the elections and assure that "political campaigning occurs in an environment free from partisan intimidation".

In a statement by Council President Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, it also called on the Government to cooperate fully with the UN and the OAS.

The Council emphasized the importance of the presidential elections to be held on schedule, before UNMIH's scheduled withdrawal in February 1996, pursuant to resolution 940 (1994) of 31 July 1994.

While the Mission's presence would help sustain a secure and stable environment, the existence of a "functioning and fair justice system and the early deployment of a permanent and effective police force" were central to Haiti's long-term stability, the Council stressed. Also, the "issue of security" was central to the entire UN operation in Haiti.

The 31 March transfer of responsibilities from the MNF—deployed since 19 September 1994—to UNMIH had been a "milestone in the overall efforts" to bring peace and stability to Haiti, the Council declared. But much remained to be done to "institutionalize democracy" there.

> "The democratic future of Haiti depends on free elections"

In stressing that the Government and people bore the "primary responsibility for Haiti's political, economic and social reconstruction", the Council also noted that the "sustained commitment" of the international community was "indispensable for long-term peace and stability" in the country.

Human rights

The number of human rights violations in Haiti had "fallen substantially" since the restoration of the constitutional Government, and the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly were being exercised by different sectors, "including by those who are critical of President Aristide and the Government", the Secretary-General reported on 29 June.

The main impediment to full respect for human rights was the "absence or extreme weakness" of the institutions needed to protect the citizens' rights, "most notably a well-trained civilian police force and an effective judicial system".

But the Government, he said, was strongly committed to developing those institutions, with the assistance of the international community, including the joint UN/OAS International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), which had resumed its activities on 26 October 1994.

By mid-June, MICIVIH, which continued to give priority to "monitoring of and the promotion of respect for human rights", had 190 observers, representing some 50 nationalities, of whom 104 were men and 86 women; 84 contracted by OAS and 106 by the UN, it was reported. ■

GUATEMALA

Campaign for justice and tolerance urged

A nationwide campaign for justice and tolerance should be launched by the Government of Guatemala to correct the "situation of impunity and the latent culture of intolerance", according to Leonardo Franco of Argentina, Director of the UN Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

Lack of security and its effect on human rights continued to be one of the population's main concerns, he declared in a 29 June report *(A/49/929)*. Violence had affected various segments of the society; some 2,053 people had been killed and 4,078 injured between 1 January and 15 May.

Extrajudicial executions, death threats and torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and failure to observe due process of law—a "situation which openly promotes impunity"—were among major concerns reported.

Positive steps included: governmental support for MINUGUA and the cooperation of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG); virtual cessation of forcible military conscription; widespread exercise of freedom of expression; readiness of senior police authorities to promote the investigation and solving of crimes; and the important role of mass media in contributing to public concern about respect for human rights. Although those steps were "inadequate compared to the magnitude of the problems", the report said, they showed the human rights situation in Guatemala could be improved, if there was political will of the parties and commitment of society as a whole. ■

UN observers, police team monitors Peace Accords

A continued UN presence in El Salvador to ensure the successful implementation of the 1992 Peace Accords was instituted on 1 May, a day after the four-year UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) had formally fulfilled its mandate.

An 18-member team of observers and civilian police consultants—the UN Mission in El Salvador (MINUSAL)—was to verify compliance with pending aspects of the Peace Accords, signed by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) in January 1992 in Mexico City.

In those comprehensive agreements, which formally ended a 12-year civil war that had claimed some 75,000 lives and resulted in more than a million refugees, the parties pledged a new era of cooperation, democracy and prosperity.

ONUSAL was established by the Security Council on 20 May 1991 to monitor compliance with the 1990 San Jose Agreement on Human Rights between the Government and the FMLN. Subsequently, its mandate was substantially enlarged and its strength increased to enable it to verify the 1992 Peace Accords and later to observe El Salvador's elections in March and April 1994.

World Bank Photo/Jaime Marti

The parties pledge a new era of cooperation and prosperity.

Resolution 991: Irreversibility urged

The Security Council on 28 April, recognizing with satisfaction that El Salvador had "evolved from a country riven by conflict into a democratic and peaceful nation", urged the country's Government, the FMLN and all concerned to "ensure the irreversibility of the peace process".

By unanimously adopting resolution 991 (1995), it also urged them to accelerate the implementation of the Peace Accords and "work together to achieve fulfilment of outstanding commitments".

In welcoming the continued commitment of the Government and people of El Salvador to "reconciliation, stabilization and development of political life", the Council called on States and international institutions to continue providing them assistance "as they consolidate the gains made in the peace process".

A programme of work to complete the implementation of the Peace Accords—covering public security, land transfer, human settlements, reintegration, protection of the war-wounded and war-disabled, and legislative reforms—was signed by the Salvadorian parties on 27 April.

According to the Secretary-General *(S/1995/407)*, the parties had agreed that the programme would be "evaluated periodically" by the UN, which would "attempt to differentiate between obstacles beyond the parties' control and negligence, distortions and omissions in fulfilling their commitments".

'Significant improvement

"Looking back, as ONUSAL comes t an end, it can be said that, togethe with the democratization of the country and the gradual institution-buildin which supports it, the human right situation in El Salvador has, despit its vicissitudes and fragility, improve significantly", Reed Brody of th United States, Director of the ONUSA Human Rights Division, reported o 18 April.

That was mainly to the credit of th Salvadorian people, who had opted fo building the "rule of law by means o dialogue and understanding", he said But the change in the human rights situation must be "consolidated and sustained over time".

On 30 March, the Legislative Assembly, on the Government's initiative an in compliance with the March 199 recommendations of the Commissio on the Truth, had ratified "two international instruments of paramoun importance": the 1976 Optional Protocol to the International Covenant o Civil and Political Rights; and the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court o Human Rights. ■

Security Council ready to consider new peace-keeping effort

The Security Council on 26 April—in reiterating full support for the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)—confirmed its readiness to provide "continuing political support, *inter alia*, through an appropriate resolution regarding the possible deployment of a multinational OSCE peace-keeping force" following the parties' agreement for cessation of the armed conflict around Nagorny Karabakh.

In a statement by its President Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, the Council also expressed concern at "recent violent incidents" on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and along the line of contact.

It urged the parties to take "all necessary measures to prevent such incidents in future", and refrain from "any actions that may undermine the peace process". The urgency of the implementation of confidence-building measures, particularly in the humanitarian field, was also stressed.

Talks continue

The cease-fire in Nagorny Karabakh—a mostly Armenian-populated area in Azerbaijan—was still in effect, thanks to the restraint shown by the parties to the conflict for more than 13 months, it was reported in early July.

Heikki Talvitie and Valentin Lozinsky, Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference, said *(S/1995/558)* that two rounds of talks aimed at a political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict had taken place in Moscow in May and in Helsinki in June. The parties had discussed issues of key importance to the comprehensive setlement of the conflict "in a business-like atmosphere", they said.

The Co-Chairmen appealed to them to continue talks "without preconditions and linkages with other questions", demonstrate "perseverance in overcoming difficulties", and ensure "stability and irreversibility" of negotiations, bearing in mind the crucial importance of the political agreement for the world community's assistance in the conflict resolution, particularly, for the deployment of the multinational OCSE peace-keeping operation.

> "Though the guns of conflict are silent, millions continue to suffer"

In connection with the first anniversary of the 12 May 1994 cease-fire, Armenia had released and repatriated all prisoners and detainees to Baku, the Co-Chairmen reported, and Azerbaijan responded with a reciprocal move. The Minsk Group States had called on the parties to declare an amnesty for those who participated in the armed conflict.

"Though the guns of the conflicting parties are now silent, more than 1 million refugees and displaced persons continue to suffer", they had reported *(S/1995/321)* on 20 April.

Chechnya region

Peter Hansen, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on 28 April expressed deep concern over the fate of Frederick Cuny and his party, who had disappeared in Chechnya—an autonomous republic within the Russian Federation—while on a humanitarian mission for the Soros Foundation. He appealed to all concerned to do their utmost to locate the missing persons and ensure their safe return.

Respect for the safety and security of humanitarian relief workers was of "cardinal importance"—it must be upheld "under any circumstances", Mr. Hansen declared. "Failure to do so can only result in greater suffering for those affected by this conflict, and cannot serve in the interests of those who threaten the lives and well-being of humanitarian aid workers in the field", he stressed.

On 6 April, an urgent alert regarding the situation of internally displaced persons in Chechnya had been issued by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, stressing that lack of resources posed a "threat to the integrated approach of United Nations humanitarian programmes".

Citing "disappointing response" to earlier appeals—only $7.9 million of the $25 million sought had been received by the end of March—the Department urged donor countries to take immediate action to support the assistance programmes.

UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations operating in Daghestan—another North Caucasus autonomous republic of the Russian Federation—had reported a sharp increase in the flow of internally displaced persons fleeing Chechnya. With some 3,000 refugees crossing the border daily, an additional 30,000 to 50,000 Chechens were reportedly moving towards the Daghestani border.

Last nuclear device

The last nuclear explosive device at the former Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakstan—emplaced by military departments of the former Soviet Union, prior to the site closure in August 1991—would be destroyed, Kazakstan President Nursultan Nazarbaev announced on 26 May.

A total of 459 nuclear explosions had been conducted in the area for almost 45 years—113 of them in the atmosphere—and the health of half a million Kazaks exposed to atomic radiation had thus been "sacrificed to the insane nuclear arms race", he stated, in an address to his nation.

The last device would be destroyed at the end of May or the first 10 days of June, and the chance of "any radio-activity or ionizing radiation escaping has been totally excluded", President Nazarbaev said. Also, he added, since the "last lethal warheads" had been removed from the country's territory at the end of April, Kazaks "need not fear the nuclear genie which has always threatened to break free". ■

REMEMBERING IN MOSCOW

Commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe

In paying tribute to all who had fought in the Second World War for the "triumph of justice and fraternity", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, attending a commemoration ceremony in Moscow of the 50th anniversary of the end of war in Europe, on 9 May declared that the United Nations was the result of that struggle.

It was a "privileged moment in history" when mankind and nations had been able to "ward off the forces of destruction and project themselves into the future as an indissoluble international community", he stated.

And it was Moscow itself, the Secretary-General went on, that had witnessed, on 30 October 1943, the "signing of the famous Declaration proclaiming 'the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization . . . for the maintenance of international peace and security'".

In calling upon some 50 Heads of State and Government present to continue their support "in this great enterprise—to enable the family of nations to face the future with confidence", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed that "only by doing so can we remain faithful to the vision of those men and women who saw, beyond the war, a world of peace and cooperation".

AP/Wide World Photos

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali *(second from right)* with United States President William Clinton *(back to camera)* outside the walls of the Kremlin in Moscow at a commemorative parade.

He pronounced: "It is our duty to the victims of all wars, the victims of hatred, intolerance and poverty. Let a strong United Nations be our legacy to the children of peace."

Eduard Shevardnadze, Head of State of Georgia, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom and President William Clinton of the United States, as well as Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, also made statements. Presidents Jiang Zemin of China and François Mitterand of France were among other dignitaries attending the event.

The Secretary-General, during his three-day (8-10 May) stay in Moscow, held meetings with President Yeltsin and other Russian officials to discuss the role of the Russian Federation and the UN in the modern world, peace-keeping, the former Yugoslavia, and conflict situations in some former Soviet republics, such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Georgia.

The Secretary-General also visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for a wreath-laying ceremony, met with the UN staff in Moscow and received a medal from the Academy of Sciences of Moscow.

On 9 May, the Russian language edition of *"The United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation"*, part of the "Blue Book" series, was published in Moscow. It contains a five-section introduction by the Secretary-General, his 17 April inaugural address to the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and relevant resolutions, reports and other documents on the subject. ■

Comprehensive political settlement to conflict urged

Stressing the urgent need for a "comprehensive political settlement of the conflict through the inter-Tajik dialogue", the Security Council called for "substantive progress on fundamental institutional and political issues". It also asked the parties to fully cooperate with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Ramiro Píriz-Ballón.

The Council acted on 16 June by unanimously adopting resolution 999 (1995), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for six months, until 15 December. The mission was established in December 1994.

The Council agreed to the extension provided that the 17 September 1994 Tehran Agreement between the Tajik Government and the opposition remained in force, and that the parties continued to be committed to an effective cease-fire, national reconciliation and promotion of democracy.

The parties were also urged to: agree to the early convening of a further round of inter-Tajik talks; implement without delay all confidence-building measures, particularly on the exchange of detainees and prisoners of war, and on the return of all refugees and displaced persons; comply with all their obligations; and cooperate fully with UNMOT, ensuring the "safety and freedom of movement" of UN personnel.

A "direct political dialogue" between Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmonov and Abdullo Nuri, Chairman of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan, was encouraged.

The urgency of the "cessation of all hostile acts on the Tajik-Afghan border" was also stressed, as the Council called upon States and others concerned to "discourage any activities that could complicate or hinder the peace process".

AP/Wide World Photos

Tajik refugee families with their belongings.

The Council also underlined the need to pursue the "close cooperation already existing" between UNMOT and the parties to the conflict, as well as its "close liaison" with the Collective Peace-keeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the border forces and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Tajikistan.

Obligations by the Government to assist the return and reintegration of refugees, as well as by the parties to "cooperate in ensuring the voluntary return, in dignity and safety, of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes", were welcomed.

A 'small step'

The fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, held in Almaty (22 May-1 June), as well as the Kabul meeting (17-19 May) between President Rakhmonov and Chairman Nuri, constituted "small but positive" steps towards national reconciliation and the restoration of peace in the country, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported *(S/1995/472)* on 10 June.

At the fourth round, the parties agreed to: exchange an equal number of detainees and prisoners of war by 20 July 1995 and ensure "unobstructed access" of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Joint Commission—established to monitor the 17 September 1994 cease-fire—to "places where detainees and prisoners of war were being held"; and step up efforts to ensure the "voluntary, safe and dignified return" of all refugees and internally displaced people. The Government also consented to suspend, for the duration of the talks, the death sentences of opposition members and subsequently review them.

In Kabul, Mr. Boutros-Ghali went on, both sides had confirmed their readiness to solve the inter-Tajik conflict, repatriate all refugees and "stabilize fully the political situation" in Tajikistan. They also decided to extend the Tehran Agreement, including a temporary cease-fire for another three months, until 26 August, and pledged to make "every possible effort to resolve the conflict through political means at the negotiating table".

Earlier, in the course of the Moscow consultations (19-26 April) held under the UN auspices, the Tajik parties had agreed that all provisions of the Tehran accord would be binding for opposition groups in Afghanistan, it was reported on 12 May *(S/1995/390)*.

'Little progress'

The Secretary-General declared in his 10 June report that "little progress" had been made in addressing the fun-

TAJIKISTAN

damental political results during the 14 months since the first round of inter-Tajik talks in April 1994.

The situation in the country and on its border with Afghanistan remained tense, and the "deepening economic crisis" continued to have a "negative impact on the attempts to achieve political stability", he stated.

While UNMOT had been recognized by the Tajik parties as playing an "instrumental role in containing the conflict", the primary responsibility for its resolution still rested with them. The continued involvement and presence of the UN in Tajikistan depended on the "manner in which the parties discharge that responsibility", he stressed.

Reconciliation urged

The Security Council on 19 May, in urging the Tajik parties to achieve national reconciliation "exclusively through peaceful political means on the basis of mutual concessions and compromises", expressed concern over the actions of both sides that posed "obstacles to the peace process".

It also stressed that strict compliance by the parties with all their obligations was a "necessary condition for successful political dialogue".

In a 12 April presidential statement, the Council had expressed "deep concern at the escalation of military activities on the Tajik-Afghan border", resulting in grave loss of life. It reminded the parties of their obligations to ensure the safety of the Special Envoy and all other UN personnel.

It had been reported that on 10 April a land-mine had exploded under a Russian border forces truck, "shortly before Mr. Píriz-Ballón's convoy was to pass" the point on its way to Talokan in northern Afghanistan, where the Special Envoy was to meet Mr. Nuri, the leader of the opposition.

On 26 April, the Council, in reiterating its deep concern at the continuing military activities at the Tajik-Afghan border, noted that an "effective cease-fire was, and continues to be, a necessary condition" for UNMOT deployment. ■

GEORGIA

Situation still 'extremely unstable'

The Security Council on 12 May, in extending the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for another eight months, until 12 January 1996, expressed concern over "insufficient progress" achieved towards a comprehensive political settlement in the region.

By unanimously adopting resolution 993 (1995), it also decided that the extension was subject to its review if any changes were made in the mandate of the peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), deployed in Abkhazia—a small Black Sea region of Georgia.

The Council called upon the parties to reach substantive progress in their negotiations—held under UN auspices, with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—and urged them to "refrain from any unilateral actions which could complicate or hinder the political process aimed at an early and comprehensive political settlement".

It reiterated its call to the Abkhaz side to accelerate significantly the process of the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, guarantee the "safety of spontaneous returnees" already in the area and regularize their status in accordance with the 4 April 1994 Quadripartite Agreement.

The parties were also called upon to improve their cooperation with UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force in the Gali region, aimed at "improving conditions for the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons", and honour their commitments with regard to the security and freedom of movement of all UN and CIS personnel.

In recommending the Mission's extension, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 1 May warned that the untimely withdrawal of the CIS peace-keeping force and UNOMIG would lead to "open confrontation and the resumption of conflict".

However, he went on, although mediators and other interlocutors could assist by providing ideas, political skills and expertise, as well as "appropriate settings and conditions" for negotiations, the parties themselves "must be willing to make the necessary accomodations for their dispute to be resolved".

So far, the presence of UNOMIG had not had the "intended effect of contributing substantially" to the creation of conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees, the Secretary-General reported *(S/1995/342)*.

And the "principal reason for this unfortunate situation" was that neither the Georgian Government nor the Abkhaz authorities had been able to guarantee the safety and protection of the displaced persons and repatriants, he stated.

Without an agreement by the parties on the number and type of personal weapons to be carried in the security zone and "in the absence of an earnest attempt by them to control the armed elements", security conditions in the region would "continue to be unstable".

Also, some additional measures to improve conditions could be taken in the security and restricted weapons zones—areas adjacent to the Inguri river, which forms a natural demarcation line between the parties—but they were "unlikely to improve the situation" unless both sides demonstrate the necessary will, the Secretary-General observed. "As is always the case, it is the parties to a conflict that must make peace", he stressed. ■

Special Committee calls for careful study of 'rapid reaction force'

A suggested UN "rapid reaction force" has raised a variety of important and complex political, legal and financial issues and should be studied carefully, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations reported after its four-week 1995 session (10 April-5 May, New York).

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in his "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace", issued on 25 January, had proposed that the UN needed to give serious thought to the idea of a rapid reaction force.

Some members, however, expressed caution, arguing that the use of such a force in internal conflicts would be unacceptable since that would erode the principle of State sovereignty. They also pointed out that the efficiency of an operation was not so much related to the speed of deployment, but more to its political capacity. Further, the establishment of such a force would duplicate the capabilities of Member States and give the UN an undesirable military image.

To facilitate the rapid deployment of troops, the 34-member Committee urged the Secretary-General to develop a deployable headquarters team, composed of personnel skilled in essential military and civilian functions, that could be sent quickly to mission areas. Special attention should be paid to the question of rapid and effective responses to emergency situations in Africa, it added.

The Committee, in its report *(A/50/230)*, also stressed the importance of clearly defined mandates, objectives, command structure and secure financing for peace-keeping operations.

It recommended the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for larger operations with overall authority for their components, and reaffirmed the importance of an effective public information capacity.

Emphasizing that peace-keeping operations should respect States' sovereignty and not intervene in matters essentially within their domestic jurisdiction, the Committee reaffirmed three basic principles underlying those operations: consent of the parties; impartiality; and the non-use of force except for self-defence.

> "UN peace-keeping operations continue to face unforeseen new challenges"

Whenever possible, consultations should be held between the UN Secretariat and prospective troop-contributing countries before the establishment of new missions, and troop contributors should receive situation reports on the operations.

Reaffirming that training was essentially the responsibility of Member States, the Committee asked for a study on the feasibility of attaching training assistance teams to the headquarters of peace-keeping missions, and to coordinate and facilitate the use of standardized procedures. The completion of a code of conduct for UN peace-keeping personnel was also called for.

Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, told the Committee that peace-keeping continued to face unforeseen new challenges, experiencing both setbacks and successes.

"At a time when concerns are being expressed in a number of forums about a possible retreat from multilateralism, Member States have continued to demonstrate an ability to work together fruitfully and productively under challenging and, yes, potentially dangerous conditions", he said.

At present, there are some 60,000 military and civilian personnel serving under the UN flag in peace-keeping operations worldwide, he reported. The UN had improved its ability to respond to situations in the field. A sound skeletal structure had been developed in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, but given the enormous complexity, as well as the size and number of operations, the staff was still thin by any standard.

What was needed was a greater capacity to: conduct feasibility studies of options for the consideration of the Security Council; translate mandates into achievable concepts of operations; provide timely guidance and support to the field, as well as meaningful feedback to the Council; and on the basis of experience, develop and refine doctrines, operational concepts and standard operating procedures.

Two significant improvements had been made in the area of preparedness, Mr. Annan added. First, stand-by arrangements had continued to be developed and now included 40 Member States. Second, the UN had developed at Brindisi, Italy, start-up kits containing basic equipment and supplies needed to initiate and sustain non-military components of a peace-keeping operation until its own systems were operative. That meant that those start-up kits and other equipment could be moved to virtually any African port capable of handling ocean-going ships within 12 days. ■

Non-Proliferation Treaty extended 'indefinitely' at Review Conference

Full compliance called essential to international peace and security

UN Photo 189453

SECRETARY-GENERAL
PRESIDENT

At the opening session of the historic NPT Review Conference—Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali *(left)*, Conference President Dhanapala *(centre)* and Prvoslav Davinic, Secretary-General of the Conference *(right)*.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) "shall continue in force indefinitely", it was declared on 11 May at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT.

In a decision taken without a vote, participants in the four-week assemblage (17 April–12 May, New York) agreed that full compliance with the Treaty, its extension and universal adherence were essential to international peace and security and to the attainment of the "ultimate goals of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control".

Two other decisions—on strengthening the review process for the Treaty and on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament—and a resolution calling for the establishment of an "effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction" were also adopted without a vote.

Delegates from 175 States parties to the historic disarmament agreement—which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology throughout the world—gathered at UN Headquarters in New York to comply with a requirement of the 1970 NPT, which called for a special meeting 25 years after its entry into force to consider extending the global pact.

The Conference was unable to agree on a final declaration on the review of the operation of the Treaty, despite extensive consultations and strenuous last-minute negotiations which delayed the closing meeting.

Conference President Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka believed that there had been "neither winners nor losers" at the forum, and only the Treaty had won. The 1995 Review Conference had undertaken a "vote of confidence in the only disarmament agreement that has almost universal adherence", he said in his closing statement on 12 May. All parties should consolidate and implement its decisions.

The Treaty had been rendered permanent, Mr. Dhanapala went on, and a framework to strengthen its regime, with a sharper focus in future review conferences, had been established. Also, NPT objectives had been strengthened and an "historic agreement, not only on the extension of the Treaty but on the need for universality and strengthened review mechanisms", had been achieved, he stated.

Non-proliferation and disarmament must be pursued together, and the Conference had encapsulated that sentiment, providing a "framework with which to translate it into reality", the President concluded.

In his opening address on 17 April, Mr. Dhanapala had said that action to extend the NPT should be seen as a "consolidation of gains on the road to outlawing the most horrendous weapons ever invented". Chemical, biological and other inhumane weapons had not been disinvested, but declared illegal, he stressed.

Background

Over the years, four review conferences were convened—in 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990—to assess the pact's implementation and recommend ways to strengthen it.

The NPT was opened for signature on 1 July 1968 in London, Moscow and Washington—the United Kingdom, the former USSR and the United States having been designated depository Governments—and entered into force on 5 March 1970 with 97 signatures and 47 ratifications.

In addition to quelling the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, it aims to further the goal of general and complete disarmament and promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Treaty has established a safeguards system—a set of confidence-building measures designed to verify compliance with the NPT by inspections—under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

With 179 States parties—Chile's decision to join was announced on 12 May—the NPT is the most widely adhered to multilateral instrument after the UN Charter.

Three States parties—Kiribati, Somalia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)—did not attend. In addition to States signatories, and UN and IAEA representatives, 10 non-States parties were present as observers—Angola, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Israel, Oman, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Vanuatu.

Other observers were: Palestine; the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean; European Community; League of Arab States; South Pacific Forum; International Committee of the Red Cross; Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; North Atlantic Assembly; Organization of African Unity; and Organization of the Islamic Conference. Also, 195 research institutes and non-governmental organizations were represented.

Principles and objectives

In the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament—covering universality, non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, nuclear-weapon-free zones, security assurances, safeguards, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy—the Conference stressed that nuclear disarmament should be fulfilled with determination. Nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to pursue in good faith negotiations in that field.

The Conference also called for: the completion of negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty; early conclusion of a convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and reduction of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal of their elimination.

It also noted Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995, adopted at a meeting a week before the worldwide Conference opened. The text related to security assurances, as well as to declarations by the nuclear-weapon States concerning negative and positive security assurances. The Conference indicated that further steps in that field, including the adoption of a legally binding instrument, should be considered. Parties worried about non-compliance with the Treaty should direct their concerns to the IAEA, it stated.

Also, promotion of transparency in nuclear-related export controls was urged, and States parties were called upon to maintain high standards in nuclear safety, including waste management, and observe standards and guidelines in nuclear materials accounting, as well as the physical protection and transport of nuclear materials.

By a third decision—on strengthening the NPT review process—the Conference decided that, beginning in 1997, its Preparatory Committee would meet in each of the three years before the quinquennial Review Conference. Those meetings would evaluate the results of the period under review and consider the principles and objectives to promote and strengthen the implementation of the Treaty and achieve its universality.

Finally, in a resolution on the Middle East, the Conference called on the States of the region to establish a verifiable zone free of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical and biological. Expressing concern about unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in the region, the Conference called upon all States to accede to the Treaty and place their nuclear facilities under full scope of the IAEA safeguards.

Beyond disarmament

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in an inaugural address on 17 April, declared that the outcome of the Review Conference could support a "vision of international relations that extends beyond disarmament".

Increasingly, States were working in harmony to make decisions of global importance on a vast range of issues, from development to international security, and the Conference, by forging a "joint strategy on non-proliferation", could mark the "beginning of a new phase in arms limitations and disarmament, and a major stride towards a world free from nuclear weapons", he stressed. It could also "pave the way to redirecting the vast sums of money now spent on armaments towards the development that can ensure lasting peace".

United States Secretary of State

Warren Christopher said that the NPT, established at a time of a nuclear standoff that threatened every nation, had given the parties "confidence in the nuclear intentions of others" and had reduced the risk of nuclear conflict.

The Treaty had advanced nuclear disarmament—nuclear arsenals of the two former cold war adversaries were being reduced by almost two thirds—bolstered regional security and "promoted safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy". Negotiations were advancing on a comprehensive test-ban treaty and a cut-off on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. "Simply put, the NPT has worked", Mr. Christopher declared.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated that the Treaty's indefinite and unconditional extension was "not a mandate for indefinite possession by the nuclear Powers of their nuclear arsenals". His country was committed to the final goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and supported signing a comprehensive test-ban treaty "as early as this year". But such a step, as well as a "subsequent renunciation of qualitative modernization of nuclear arms", was only possible if the NPT remained in effect, Mr. Kozyrev stressed on 24 April.

Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, said on 18 April that the international community could best serve a "world without fear of nuclear war" by deciding to extend the Treaty unconditionally and indefinitely. His country's nuclear forces would soon be limited to a "single system deployed on submarines", with "no British weapons" elsewhere. "I can announce today that the United Kingdom has ceased the production of fissile material for explosive purposes", Mr. Hurd stated.

Credible assurances needed

Hans Blix, IAEA Director-General, said there was a need for "credible assurances" that nuclear material and installations were used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Lessons had been learned from the cases of Iraq, South Africa and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, highlighting the need for strengthened safeguards and verification. Illegal trafficking in nuclear material and nuclear-free zones should also be addressed.

As for a comprehensive test-ban treaty and cut-off on production of fissile material, Mr. Blix believed that instead of a new international organization for each arms control and disarmament agreement, it would be more practical to charge the IAEA with verification of the "cluster of nuclear related agreements". Having served as a vital instrument for NPT implementation, the Agency could be a "principal intergovernmental channel for the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology" and for assistance to developing countries, Mr. Blix stated.

Variety of views

In six days of general debate, the Conference heard 116 speakers, expressing wide-ranging views on compliance with the Treaty, its proposed extension, and ways to achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament. General support was expressed for strengthened IAEA safeguard programmes.

Other issues raised included: the inherent inequality between nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States; acceleration of nuclear disarmament; non-accession to the NPT by India, Israel and Pakistan; management of fissile materials; access to nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes; environmental concerns associated with nuclear testing in the South Pacific; transshipment of toxic nuclear materials; and disposal of nuclear waste. ■

Commission continues work on arms transfers guidelines

The focus of guidelines for international arms transfers—described as a "deeply entrenched phenomenon of contemporary international relations"—would be on illicit arms trade, the Disarmament Commission agreed during its annual session (15-30 May, New York). The 185-member Commission, which completed a first reading of the proposed guidelines, decided to use that text as a basis for work in 1996.

The draft guidelines note that the problem of illicit traffic in arms had social and humanitarian component, in addition to technical, economic and political dimensions. Arms transfers should be addressed in conjunction with the question of maintaining international peace and security, reducing international tension, enhancing confidence, and promoting disarmament, as well as economic and social development.

"All States have the inherent right of self-defence as enshrined" in the UN Charter, the as-yet-unagreed-to document states, and "therefore have the right to acquire arms for their defence, including arms from outside sources". However, international transfers of conventional arms "can give rise to concerns which, in recent decades, have acquired a new dimension with the increase in illicit trafficking of arms", it states, and "by its clandestine nature, defies transparency".

The proposed guidelines, as set out in a Chairman's working paper, include sections containing an introduction, UN background, scope, definition, principles, ways and means at the national and international levels, and institutional arrangements.

The Commission failed to reach consensus in two other substantive areas: on the process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of elimination of nuclear weapons; and on the review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.

Conference seeks pragmatic solutions to create a safer world

Disarmament, an "instrument of collective security" and an essential factor in efforts to "promote a safer world", should accompany UN measures to achieve peace and economic and social development, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Conference on Disarmament on 6 July, as it concluded the second part of its 1995 session (1 June-6 July, Geneva).

Reaffirming the UN commitment to disarmament, he declared: "Only a common determination and unshakable conviction can enable us to build together, a safer world—a world we will not be ashamed to bequeath to the future generations to whom we committed ourselves, 50 years ago, in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations."

The 38-member Conference—the world's sole multilateral disarmament body—continued discussions on a future comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty. However, no progress was made on its other agenda items: transparency in armaments; negative security assurances; peaceful uses of outer space; and expansion of membership.

In a closing statement, Conference President Antonio de Icaza of Mexico said the forum had been unable to "surmount a series of linkages" between questions obliging it to undertake an "ambitious global debate", despite the "good will of all delegations".

The annual organization of the Conference's work, he suggested, should be decided upon at the beginning of the year. For as time passed, the sense of urgency and the need to "transform national agendas into pragmatic solutions" faded.

Also, Mr. de Icaza went on, arms-related decisions taken outside of the Conference had "influenced the way in which delegations were disposed to arrive at a consensus here. When those decisions were particularly important, a period of reflection and assimilation was needed", he observed.

In debate, many speakers, while praising the results of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, expressed concern that the Conference on Disarmament was still far from achieving its goal of having a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty ready for signature by autumn 1996.

Noting proposals that the ban should allow some low-yield tests, a number of delegates stressed that the test-ban treaty had to be comprehensive, with no loopholes whatsoever, entailing obligations, as India put it, for "complete cessation of nuclear tests by all States in all environments and for all time".

Some even called on the nuclear-weapon States to refrain from all tests pending the entry into force of such a treaty. In that regard, concern was expressed over the nuclear test carried out by China on 15 May and France's announced intention to conduct a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

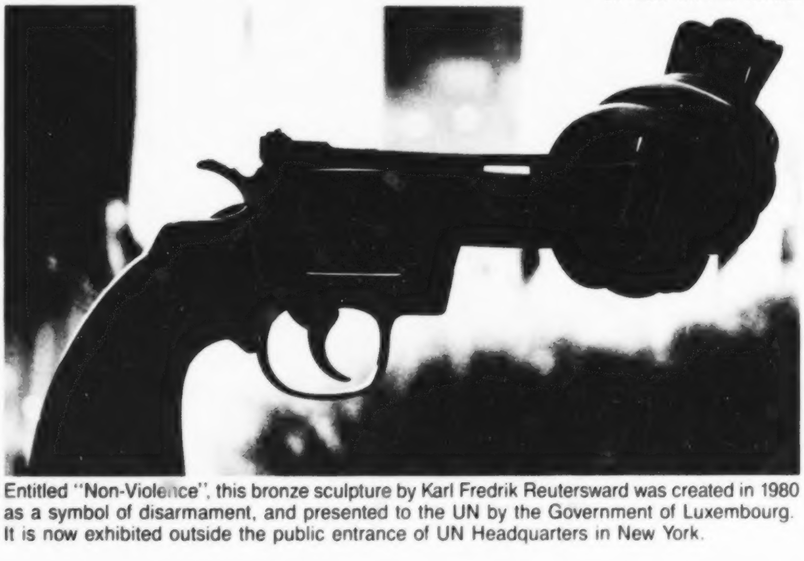
China responded that it was in favour of a complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and would stop nuclear testing after the conclusion of the comprehensive test-ban treaty, by which it would abide.

France stressed that its decision to conduct a "last series of tests", which was "in fact contributing" to the treaty's conclusion, should not be considered apart from its commitment to sign a test-ban treaty in 1996.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakstan on 8 June called for a new regional security system in the "belt of uncertainty" between the Russian Federation and India. Such an arrangement, similar to Western European and East-Asian structures, could finally accede to the "existing continental or global international security systems and respective disarmament processes", he stated.

The Netherlands on 30 June informed the Conference that it had deposited its instruments of ratification of the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction with the UN Secretary-General in New York. Romania announced a unilateral moratorium on export of land-mines for one year. ■

UN Photo 181855/M. Tzovaras



Entitled "Non-Violence", this bronze sculpture by Karl Fredrik Reutersward was created in 1980 as a symbol of disarmament, and presented to the UN by the Government of Luxembourg. It is now exhibited outside the public entrance of UN Headquarters in New York.

Ninth UN Congress focuses on practical solutions

New convention, code of conduct considered

Eschewing vague generalities and focusing on specific priorities, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (29 April-8 May, Cairo) adopted wide-ranging practical measures oriented to finding workable solutions to global crime problems, particularly in four major areas: preventing urban, juvenile and violent crimes; taking action against transnational and organized crime: promoting international cooperation to fight crime: and identifying the role of criminal law in environmental protection.

The gathering also featured an unprecedented two-part plenary debate on corruption, led by a panel of international experts.

"The time has come to move beyond declarations and statements of principle to action", UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared in a message delivered by Conference Secretary-General Giorgio Giacomelli to more than 1,700 Congress participants from 138 countries. "Rising crime is impairing the process of development and the general well-being of humanity."

Among 11 resolutions adopted by the Congress was an omnibus text on the four major areas of concern, as well as calls for consideration of a new international convention against organized transnational crimes, action to quell the proliferation of firearms, promote laws and procedures to deal with violence against women, and prohibit child pornography and abuse.

Addressing specifics

While previous Crime Congresses have been characterized by wide-ranging agendas oriented mainly towards technical aspects of improving the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly, in convening the Ninth Crime Congress, had asked that it be geared towards substantive topics identified by Governments as priorities in the field of crime control.

Photo by Ernesto Mor

Combating international and organized crime—sometimes involving "money laundering" schemes—was a goal of the Congress.

"Responding to a need for a more practical orientation, this Congress is expected to take a more practical and visible role: identifying new concerns and recommending practical measures to respond to those concerns", Mr. Giacomelli told participants on 29 April.

To reflect this focus, the Congress assumed a new format including the traditional plenary forum for debate, as well as technical workshops on specific issues.

Much of the work of the Congress was done in more informal workshops, where national strategies to combat specific kinds of crime were discussed, and recommendations made to improve international response. Workshops were held on: extradition an
international cooperation: computer
zation of records: the mass media an
its role in crime prevention: crimin
law and environmental protectio
urban policy: and the prevention of vi
lence and violent crime.

The two main committees of the Co
gress also took a practical approach i
their discussions of specific topics, suc
as reform and modernization of justic
systems, prevention of urban and juv
nile crime, and issues relating to victim

In addition to discussing measures t
combat corruption, plenary deba
included general discussion of nation
and international experiences in crim
prevention and criminal justice.

Background

UN Crime Congresses have bee
held every five years since 1955, co
tinuing an international effort that ca
be traced back to the First Penal ar
Penitentiary Congress, held in Fran
furt, Germany, in 1846.

The eight previous Congresses took place at Geneva (1955 and 1975), London (1960), Stockholm (1965), Kyoto (1970), Caracas (1980), Milan (1985) and Havana (1990).

The Congresses have served as the primary global forum for developing criminal justice policies and coordinating international action. They have produced important international instruments, guidelines and standards on various crime prevention and criminal justice issues.

The Ninth Congress is the first such gathering since the 1991 review of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme by an intergovernmental ministerial summit, held in Versailles, and the subsequent establishment of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a new functional body of the Economic and Social Council to mobilize the international community through a revitalized UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

The new Commission—an intergovernmental body composed of 40 Member States—was charged with the preparatory work for this and subsequent Congresses. Recommendations of the Congress were submitted to the Commission at its 1995 session in Vienna, held from 30 May to 9 June *(see box)*.

Preparations for the Ninth Crime Congress—the first to be held on the African continent and in the Arab world—included regional meetings held in Bangkok, Kampala, Vienna, Amman and San Jose in 1994.

The Congress' effort to address the issues of organized crime benefited from the outcome of two 1994 meetings: the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of the Proceeds of Crime, held in Courmayeur, Italy, from 17 to 21 June; and the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, which took place in Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November.

Organized crime

The Ninth Crime Congress unequivocally condemned organized crime and terrorist crime, characterizing them as "crimes which may aim at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threaten the territorial integrity and security of States, destabilize legally constituted Governments, undermine pluralist civil society and have adverse consequences on the economic and social development of States".

Expressing recognition of the similarities between terrorist crime and organized crime, as reflected in their transnational nature and illicit methods, with their use of physical force, plundering of property, extortion, kidnapping, forgery, illicit trafficking in arms and drugs, and money laundering, the Congress invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to draft a code of conduct for combating transnational organized crime, keeping in mind the danger of its link to terrorism.

By another resolution, the Congress invited the Commission to request the

Crime Commission acts on Congress proposals

Calling for the UN to begin work on two new legal instruments, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice concluded its two-week session (30 May-9 June, Vienna) by urging implementation of a broad range of activities recommended by the Ninth UN Crime Congress.

Under one of eight resolutions approved by the Commission on 9 June, the Economic and Social Council would call for convening, at the Commission's 1996 session, a working group to consider ways to combat transnational organized crime, including the possibility of drafting of a code of conduct or a legally-binding treaty.

By another text, the UN Secretary-General would be asked to begin seeking Member States' views on the elaboration of an international convention against such practices as child pornography, prostitution, black market adoption and the procurement of children for illicit organ transplants.

The Commission urged the General Assembly to endorse all the resolutions adopted by the Congress and invite Governments to incorporate their provisions into laws and policies. It also recommended implementation of the final documents of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples last November, and urged States to develop strategies to prevent and punish corruption in public officials.

Under a work plan on firearms, recommended for Council approval, the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch would begin collecting information on such subjects as: the involvement of guns in crimes, accidents and suicides; the illicit traffic in firearms; and national, regional and interregional initiatives to regulate them.

In other action, the Commission called on States and funding agencies to strengthen their support for UN crime control advisory services and training programmes; recommended setting up a regional data base on international crime control training in Central and Eastern Europe; called for concerted action to combat the smuggling of illegal migrants across national borders; and adopted a set of management guidelines for urban crime prevention projects.

It would have the Council ask the Secretary-General to take steps to expand global knowledge and application of UN standards in the crime control field, and also seek more comments from States on a set of draft minimum rules for the administration of criminal justice.

views of Governments on elaboration of international instruments, such as a convention against organized transnational crime, thereby initiating the process called for by the 1994 World Ministerial Conference. Issues and elements that such a convention might cover, according to the Congress, could include problems and dangers posed by organized crime, international cooperation at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels, and prevention and control of money laundering.

Omnibus text

Action against transnational and organized crime was also among the recommendations contained in an omnibus resolution on four substantive topics of the Congress. By that text, Member States were urged to: facilitate transnational criminal investigations by extending legal assistance to each other; cooperate with one another regarding extradition, taking into account the rights of the accused and also the interests of victims; consider establishing multi-disciplinary units specializing in the investigation of economic crime and help identify major commercial networks influenced by transnational criminal organizations; and cooperate in identifying specific measures against corruption, bribery and the abuse of power.

Expressing awareness that crime has become a major problem with national and international dimensions, hampering political, economic, social and cultural development, the four-part omnibus resolution urges Member States, among other measures, to:

- Consider enacting environmental protection legislation, as well as penal provisions to protect the environment, endangered species and cultural property, and to consider creating special bodies to protect the environment, such as special prosecutors or investigative bodies.
- Intensify efforts aimed at more consolidated cooperation and coordination in crime prevention and criminal justice, in order to establish integrated regional policies and plans;
- Enhance the professional calibre of staff in all sectors concerned with crime prevention and criminal justice, and to consider adopting the community policing approach as a method of delivering police services, with a view to reducing the social distance between law enforcement officials and the public they serve; and
- Develop education, social and other programmes based on mutual respect and tolerance, in order to lower the level of violence in society, with special emphasis on the importance of conflict prevention and management.

> “The time has come to move beyond declarations”

Furthermore, the Commission was asked to encourage the Secretary-General, as a way of strengthening the rule of law, to recommend upon request the inclusion of the re-establishment and reform of criminal justice systems in peace-keeping operations.

Victims, perpetrators

In a text on children as victims and perpetrators of crime, the Congress requested the views of States on an international convention on the illicit traffic in children, and urged States to adopt measures to prohibit child pornography and traditional practices prejudicial to children's health, such as female genital mutilation.

The Congress also recommended that States ensure that the administration of justice allow child offenders to take responsibility for their actions. States were called on to explore measures to comply with the principle that the deprivation of children's liberty should only be used as a last resort.

By a strong resolution that enjoyed considerable support among participants, the Congress urged States to adopt laws against acts of violence that may victimize women, and sanctions against rape, sexual abuse and all practices harmful to females, including genital mutilation.

States were urged to take special account of women's vulnerability to violence, including murder, torture, systematic rape and sexual slavery, in situations of armed conflict. Legal measures prohibiting harassment, intimidation or threats to women or their families were also recommended.

Regarding firearms regulation for increasing public safety, the Congress called for effective action against trafficking in firearms, through mutual cooperation, exchange of information and coordination of law enforcement activities. The Crime Prevention Commission was asked to consider urgent measures to regulate firearms, and States were asked to promote adequate regulation to protect public health and safety and reduce violent criminality.

The Congress also urged the Commission to consider convening an international expert group meeting to examine practical recommendations for the further development of mechanisms of international cooperation and model instruments on extradition and related forms of international cooperation in criminal matters.

The Congress called for further development of the UN Crime and Justice Information Network and welcomed Egypt's offer to establish in Cairo a regional centre for training and research in crime prevention and criminal justice for the Mediterranean States.

Forty-eight non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played an active role in the Congress. Among the 23 ancillary workshops coordinated by the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was a comprehensive investigation of the relation between crime and migration, which detailed transnational crime syndicate involvement in trafficking illegal aliens and identified factors that tend to make legal and illegal migrants both victims and perpetrators of crime. ■

Summit follow-up deemed a Commission priority

Follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development was the priority subject of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fourth session (10-20 April, New York)—the first since the Summit was held in Copenhagen in March 1995 and also the first at Headquarters in 16 years. Previous sessions were held in Vienna.

During its nine-day session, the 32-member Commission also continued preparations for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the 1985 International Youth Year and, in 1999, the International Year of Older Persons. Other action was taken on the 1994 International Year of the Family and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly.

In focusing attention on arrangements for implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, the Commission addressed such issues as the causes of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, and the need for coordinated action by the international community and the UN system.

Some delegates felt the Economic and Social Council should review the Commission's mandate, agenda and composition, in light of the results of the Summit, as well as of other recent UN conferences that addressed social and economic development issues.

As a functional body of the Council, the Commission declared it should "have a central role in the follow-up", and its mandate should be adapted to "ensure an integrated approach to social development".

In discussion, Chile stressed that without a system-wide contribution, Council debate would lead nowhere. Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, the Philippines said there was a need to be bold and innovative in addressing social development issues.

The Commission also reviewed the world social situation, with discussions calling attention to recent UN conferences highlighting the interdependence between economic and social development and conditions of peace, as well as the necessity for policies to be in the best interest of the public at large.

Youth, older persons Years acted on

In other action, the Commission recommended the creation by the Council of a working group on youth, to meet in September to complete a draft "World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond", for final action by the fiftieth General Assembly.

It also transmitted to the Assembly a draft text, noting the conceptual framework for the preparation and observance of the International Year of Older Persons. The text calls for substituting the term "older persons" for "the elderly", and invited UN Member States to adapt the framework to national conditions and to consider formulating national programmes for the Year.

Proposals on follow-up to the 1994 International Year of the Family should "serve as an indicative guide for action, primarily at the national and local levels". A concise draft was to be prepared, reflecting the outcome of UN conferences and national experiences relating to the Year.

The Special Rapporteur on disability was asked to focus his monitoring efforts over the next two years on appropriate priority areas. States were urged to establish or strengthen national coordinating committees or similar bodies to serve as national focal points on disability matters.

The Commission is an advisory body to the Council on general social policies, practical measures needed in the social field, and coordination of related activities. It also addresses questions related to specific social groups, in particular, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. Susanto Sutoyo of Indonesia is the Chairman. ■

UN/ILO Photo 148860

The International Year of Older Persons will be observed in 1999. *Above*, at a Swiss home for the elderly.

Thousands gather in Beijing for Fourth Women's Conference

Thousands of women and men from all over the world will assemble from 4 to 15 September in the Beijing International Convention Center, in the heart of the Chinese capital, for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

From almost every country and from all walks of life—from Heads of State, government officials and diplomats to housewives, from representatives of international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to students, teachers and farmers—they will come together to:

- Assess progress in achieving equal opportunities for the female half of the population in every country and in every field;
- Agree on a worldwide strategy for a Platform for Action to advance the situation of women.
- Determine priority actions to be taken by the international community, including the UN system; and
- Mobilize both women and men at the policy-making and grass-roots levels to achieve the agreed objectives.

Parallel to the official conference will be the NGO Forum on Women, to be held from 30 August to 8 September. It is expected to attract some 25,000 participants from all continents who will share their experiences in improving women's lives and advancing their status in society.

Workshops at the Forum will cover everything from women's health and labour-saving technologies to gender and politics, elimination of violence against women and female careers in cyberspace. Particular attention will be given to the concept of sustainable human development.

Meanwhile, the official conference will discuss and adopt the draft Platform for Action, focusing on 12 "critical areas of concern" that have been identified as obstacles to the advancement of women. These areas deal with: poverty, education, health, violence, armed conflicts, economic disparity, power-sharing, institutions, human rights, mass media, environment and the girl child.

The draft Platform—the main document for adoption in the Beijing meeting—sets out more than 200 actions to be undertaken by Governments, the international community, the private sector and NGOs to rectify existing obstacles to women's equality.

An informal meeting of Governments, held in New York in July, continued efforts to agree on controversial portions of the text. Many of these refer to sexual and reproductive health.

reproductive rights, foreign occupation and alien domination, cultural background, and philosophical convictions.

What is non-negotiable, according to Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella, is the issue of equality between men and women, an accepted principle that permeates the entire Platform.

She recently told government and NGO representatives in a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women: "A revolution has begun and there is no going back. There will be no unravelling of commitments—not today's commitments, not last year's commitments, and not the last decade's commitments. This revolution is too just, too important, and too long overdue."

> "A revolution has begun and there is no going back"

Fourth world conclave

The Beijing Conference is the fourth in a series of UN-sponsored global conferences on women which laid the foundation for action in this field. The previous ones were held in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985).

The Fourth World Conference carries forward the themes of "Equality, Development and Peace", adopted at the first conference in Mexico City. The Copenhagen Conference added three sub-themes: "Education, Employment and Health". The third conference incorporated those themes into the "Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000".

Preparations intensify

Governments, NGOs and people from all walks of life have been involved in the preparations at national, regional and international levels for the Conference. National committees set up by Governments and NGOs have reviewed the status of women in their respective countries, analyzed the draft Platform and adopted their own recommendations.

The Commission on the Status of Women conducted numerous preparatory meetings. In addition, five regional meetings were held, at which recommendations were discussed and regional plans of action were defined and approved.

To encourage young people to become involved in the Conference and its preparatory process, each regional meeting was preceded by a youth consultation.

A large number of documents was prepared for Conference use, providing factual support for discussion and review of the draft Platform for Action. Among them:

- A second review and appraisal of the "Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies". The first review and appraisal took place in 1990. The second review was prepared on the basis of information contained in national reports received from 130 Member States, regional preparatory conferences and UN specialized agencies. It includes an analysis of women's advancement in key areas identified by the draft Platform for Action.

- The *1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, which analyses three central development issues—poverty, productive employment and economic decision-making.

- *The World's Women 1995: Trends and Statistics*, a statistical source book presenting comparative information on women and men in areas such as family, economic and political life. It provides numbers and analysis needed to help understand how conditions differ for women and men and how they are changing. ■

Blue Book No. 6

The UN and Women

Over the years, the United Nations has been instrumental in promoting recognition of women's fundamental human rights, in codifying those rights in legally binding international agreements, and in fostering greater understanding of the central role played by women in peace-building and in economic and social development. The full story of the Organization's ground-breaking efforts in this field is now available in *The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1995*, the sixth volume of the "Blue Books" series, published by the Department of Public Information.

The book includes an introduction by the Secretary-General and detailed chronologies, and more than 100 UN documents relating to women's rights. The text includes: the landmark 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; international conventions on the political rights of women and the nationality of married women; action plans, declarations and resolutions adopted at the cycle of world conferences on women, beginning in Mexico City in 1975, including the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies; resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; and UN surveys and statistics on the status of women worldwide.

The "Blue Books" cover major developments over the past five decades in which the UN has played a leading role. The series is designed to provide primary research and reference tools to historians, policy makers, journalists and others interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the work of the Organization. Other titles deal with apartheid, Cambodia, nuclear non-proliferation, El Salvador, and Mozambique.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Commission acts on housing issues

Children's rights, refugee strategy considered

Children's housing rights and the development of a strategy to assist refugees and displaced persons were among the topics of 13 resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session (24 April-1 May, Nairobi).

With children making up 40 per cent of the world's population, the Commission declared that mechanisms should be developed to protect their housing rights and called for an expert seminar on that subject, as well as further consideration of the issue at its next session, to be held in 1997.

Other resolutions dealt with: the participation of women in human settlements development; aid to countries with economies in transition; strengthening efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean; and issues related to urban environment.

Outgoing Commission Chairman David Johansson of Finland recalled that two major themes for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II)—to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996—were sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world and adequate shelter for all.

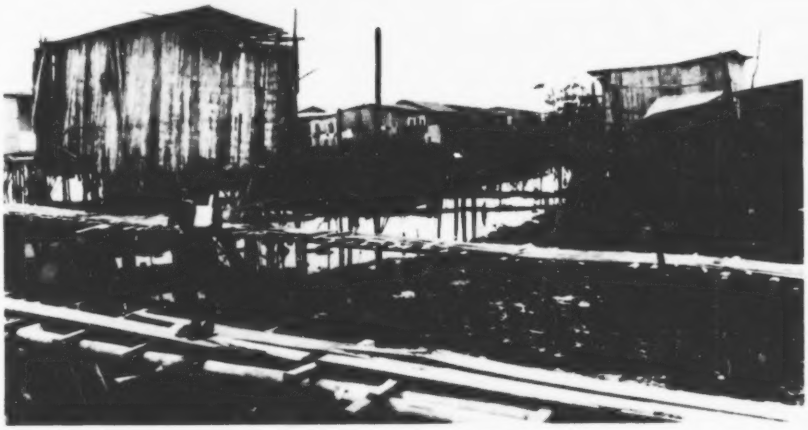
The commitment to adequate shelter for all was re-emphasized by Wally N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN Centre for Human Settlements and Secretary-General of HABITAT II.

"Human settlement policies in the future will influence and be influenced" by global development issues, he told the Commission. "Local authorities, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations, women's and community groups, as well as young people who will live in the world of the next century, must become part of the solution."

In a message by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the Commission, read by Dr. N'Dow, it was noted that the Commission session held special significance as the last before the Istanbul conference, concluding a series of global meetings that would "forge the elements of a new common global strategy of people-centred and sustainable development for the twenty-first century. "The Governments and organizations assembled here today need to provide leadership and guidance for this great global undertaking, in which all elements of civil society must participate", he said.

The newly-elected Commission Chairman is Boris Maiorski of the Russian Federation. Alberto Lizarralde of Venezuela, Rachmadi Bambang Soemadhijo of Indonesia, and John Zetter of the United Kingdom were elected Vice-Chairmen; and Antoine Zanga of Cameroon as Rapporteur. ■

UN Photo 155064/M. Grant



Seeking ways to protect the rights of children to adequate shelter.

HABITAT II: 'Gateway to the next century'

Calling the 1996 HABITAT II the "gateway to development into the next century", Assistant Secretary-General Wally N'Dow told the second session (24 April-5 May, Nairobi) of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference that it would be a "true conference of partners", representing every level of Government, with input from private and voluntary sectors, professional associations, trade unions, women's and youth groups, and community representatives. All these groups, he said, would "learn from one another" how to solve the problems of human settlements put before them.

Work continued at the session by an open-ended drafting group on the text of a draft action plan to guide the sustainable development of the world's cities, towns and villages.

The text comprises a preamble, statement of goals and principles, and a set of commitments to be undertaken by Governments in support of HABITAT II's objectives: development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, and adequate shelter for all.

New Panel to combat forest degradation

Use of fuels, coral reefs, oceans reviewed

A new Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, set up by the Commission on Sustainable Development on 28 April, will review all existing agreements on forests and assess whether a broad-based international legal convention on all types of forests would be needed.

It also will: examine the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation; devise strategies to combat them; and promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

FAO Photo

A dense high forest in Kenya. Ways to protect such areas are being devised.

The Commission, at its two-week session (11-28 April, New York), established the Panel to promote multidisciplinary action at the international level, consistent with the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

Particular attention is to be given to the impact on forests of such factors as consumption and production patterns, poverty, population growth and pollution.

The Panel is to monitor actions to support afforestation, reforestation and restoration of forest systems, particularly in countries with fragile ecosystems and those affected by desertification and/or drought. It will propose steps to promote the conservation of low forest cover, particularly in unique types of forests, in developing countries.

In other action, the Commission called for national plans to reduce the levels of lead used in petrol. Wealthier countries were asked to assist developing States in obtaining the technology needed to make the transition to lead-free products. Voluntary changes in patterns of production and consumption were urged.

The Commission supported the International Coral Reef Initiative by which "stakeholders"—Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry and local communities—would protect and sustainably manage coral reef ecosystems.

It also set up two working groups—one, on sectoral issues, to assess progress made in protecting the atmosphere, oceans and seas; and the other, on cross-sectoral issues, to look at the changing patterns of production and consumption and finance for sustainable development.

Financing of sustainable development remained an area of concern, according to the Commission. Countries expressed their disappointment at the decline of official development assistance (ODA) and stressed the need for new and additional financial resources to implement "Agenda 21".

Commission Chairman Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti of Brazil, former Minister of the Environment and the Amazon, said the four pillars of sustainability—social, economic, environmental and institutional—required a positive approach and an ethical attitude on the part of every nation in its decision-making process. Some requirements for success included: citizen's participation; competitiveness in the private sector; responsible stewardship of the biosphere and its resources; and the existence of legitimate political representation and managerial and professional competence.

Nitan Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said sustainable development must be interpreted in the broadest view of the development dimension. "The central issue is to meet human needs and aspirations while protecting common interests", he said.

A High-level Segment of the Commission was held on 27 April, attended by some 50 Ministers and Secretaries of State, with responsibility for the environment, forestry, transportation, tourism, agriculture, labour, urban planning and development cooperation. Participants felt that the diversity of initiatives taken worldwide to sustain the planet indicated the Commission's growing influence.

They also saw a need to analyze the impact of environmentally-related trade policies on trade, such as eco-labelling, packaging and recycling, with developing countries. In particular, an integrated approach to planning and management of land resources was presented as a cornerstone of efforts to address environmental concerns. ■

Space debris plan approved

Two texts—a multi-year work plan for dealing with the hazards of space debris, and a questionaire on legal norms to apply to aerospace objects, including future transportation vehicles—were approved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirty-eighth session (12-22 June, Vienna).

The Committee—a focal point of UN activities in promoting international cooperation to use and maintain outer space for peaceful purposes—acted by adopting its report *(A/50/20)* to the General Assembly, which contains the recommendations of its two Subcommittees: on scientific and technical, as well as on legal matters.

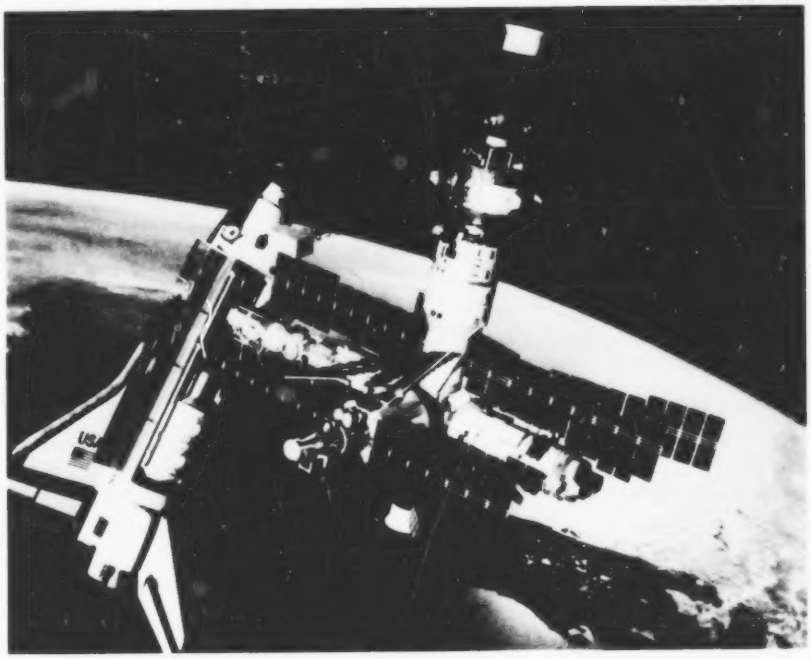
The work plan deals with all man-made objects in orbit around the Earth, including defunct and fragmentized satellites. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was asked to review, in 1996, the dimensions of various debris and the effect of their possible collisions with space systems.

In 1997, it would consider mathematical models to locate and chart the path of space debris and, in 1998, concentrate on mitigation measures and protection of spacecraft against collisions.

The questionnaire, developed by the Legal Subcommittee, would seek the Committee members' views on definition of aerospace objects, such as space shuttles capable of transiting between sovereign air space and outer space. Responses would serve as guidelines for discussions on a legal framework to govern such transit.

On other issues, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was asked to continue consideration, in 1996, of all proposals on a third UN conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE III), with a view to convening the event before the end of the century. Two previous conferences—in 1968 and 1982—took place in Vienna.

AP/Wide World Photos



The successful docking of the United States space shuttle Atlantis with the Russian Federation's Mir Space Station, marked the "dawning of a new era of international cooperation in the wondrous realm of outer space", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared on 29 June.

With regard to the 1992 Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the Committee agreed to postpone their revision. Such action was deemed premature pending a scientific review.

The establishment by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs of an electronic gateway to provide Internet users with information on the Organization's space-related activities was welcomed.

Other subjects included: spin-off benefits of space technology; new applications; cooperation opportunities; and the Committee's work methods.

A video conference between the UN Secretary-General and United States astronauts and Russian Federation cosmonauts in outer space, to mark the UN fiftieth anniversary, is to take place between 27 October and 2 November, it was announced. The crew of the Atlantis/Mir complex would then appear at UN Headquarters to present three items returned from space: a UN flag; an emblem; and a special commemorative parchment scroll of the 1966 Outer Space Treaty and the 1967 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts.

In a closing statement on 22 June, Committee Chairman Peter Hohenfellner of Austria welcomed a "spirit of democracy and cooperation" which, he said, had prevailed at the session.

Two of the Committee's subsidiary bodies had met earlier in Vienna: the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in its thirty-second session (6-16 February); and the Legal Subcommittee held its thirty-fourth session (27 March-7 April).

Also, a joint UN/European Space Agency workshop on applications of space technology in dealing with natural disasters was held in Harare, Zimbabwe (22-26 May). Participants considered, among other things, ways to promote the use of space-based technologies—such as remote sensing, satellite meteorology and telecommunications, and satellite positioning—to provide early warning on desertification, forest fires, floods, storms and earthquakes. ■

AFRICA RECOVERY

Africa's informal sector focus of workshop

Ways to strengthen the role of the informal sector in Africa's economic development was the focus of a three-day UN workshop (13-15 June, New York), organized by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) and the UN Development Programme.

More than 75 participants attended, including African ambassadors, UN officials, donor countries and agencies, developing countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

"All actors of the development process must work together and in harmony to bring about the development of the African informal sector", Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS, told participants in his opening statement.

Discussion centred on five basic themes: the UN system and the development of Africa's informal sector; assistance by donor agencies and financial institutions; women's participation; the role of NGOs; and the integration of the informal sector into national economies. Participants presented policy and recommendation papers dealing with the role that the informal sector has played in African rural and urban society.

The "informal sector" includes any business or enterprise not formally registered with national or local governments; they are usually small, with fewer than 10 workers. Activities may include construction, landscaping and small-scale manufacturing.

Some 60 percent of the urban labour force in Africa participates in the informal sector. For many, the sector represents their "only escape" from poverty. Therefore, Mr. Ji stated, the major challenge is "not to determine whether the informal sector should be strengthened, but rather how it should be strengthened".

Eighteen recommendations aimed at strengthening and improving the informal sector emerged from the meeting, covering policy framework, finance, education and training, technology and technical assistance, and information. ■

DEVELOPMENT

'New directions' sought for technical cooperation

The incorporation of "new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries" (TCDC) into relevant programmes of Governments, UN organizations and other public and private institutions and entities, particularly those in developed countries, was urged by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its ninth session (30 May-2 June, New York).

"Given the changes occurring in the traditional structure of multilateral technical cooperation, TCDC is likely to assume increasing importance in the future", a report before the Committee stated.

While those "dramatic changes" in the international economic system since the late 1980s had "adversely affected the economic fortune of many developing countries", they had nevertheless created increased opportunities for TCDC, based on, in some instances, increased differentiation among developing countries.

The Committee endorsed, in general, the report's recommendations "as an important means for harnessing the significant capacities that exist in the developing world".

Among others things, "a more strategic focus" for TCDC was emphasized, as was the selection of priority issues, including trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, education, health, transfer of technology and rural development.

"TCDC should in future focus on strategic initiatives that are likely to have a major impact on a large number of developing countries", the report stated.

The UN Development Programme was asked to play a "proactive role" within the UN system to expand the application of TCDC and to effectively implement the strategy for new directions, while trying to cut the delivery costs of future programmes.

The Committee meets biennially and recommends measures to implement the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. It also monitors all TCDC activities in the UN system. The application of TCDC is considered primarily a responsibility of developing countries, with the UN development system acting as facilitator and catalyst. ■

Dynamic information strategies needed to promote UN goals

The 88-member Committee on Information, at its seventeenth session (1-12 May, New York), called dynamic public-information strategies an indispensable tool in promoting the UN's goals of peace, democracy and development. By meeting the increasingly complex challenges of modern mass communications, delegations said, the Organization would ensure the broadest possible support, uniting the world's peoples in awareness and aspiration.

The Committee also welcomed the latest initiatives of the Department of Public Information (DPI), saying that innovative, cost-efficient outreach had become more important than ever in spreading the message of the UN.

Committee Chairman Ivan Maximov of Bulgaria said that at a time of new tasks and major responsibilities for the UN, the importance of public information in mobilizing support for the Organization could not be overemphasized. Peoples throughout the world saw the UN as a repository of hope for humanity. DPI had endeavoured over the past year to meet those expectations in a productive and effective way, developing a public information strategy which had increased its outreach while ensuring greater cost efficiency.

A unified and positive image

The Committee stressed the important role of DPI in projecting a unified and positive image of the UN, in response to heightened public interest in the Organization at the time of its fiftieth anniversary.

Mr. Sanbar: "The message of the United Nations must be brought home to every corner of the world."

Emphasizing the need to disseminate the UN message to every corner of the world, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar told the Committee that, while modern communications technology offered unprecedented opportunities, it posed major challenges at the same time.

"Never has our ability to disseminate information on the work and the achievements of the Organization been more important; never has the need to generate favourable public opinion for the United Nations been greater than it is today", he said. "The message of the United Nations must be brought home to every corner of the world. This is a very daunting task that can only be accomplished through a joint effort by all of us."

Highlighting DPI's new initiatives and approaches, Mr. Sanbar said that the question was how to employ limited resources to master the new technologies and communicate the UN message to vast new audiences. Despite increased budgetary constraints and demands on resources, DPI continued to keep pace with the rapidly evolving telecommunications technology and was moving with accelerated speed on the "information superhighway".

The Committee underlined the importance of the transfer of technology in the field of information and communication from the developed to the developing countries, so as to help the latter become part of the "global village".

Reaffirming their commitment

It also urged all countries to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of freedom of the press and information, and to cooperate in reducing disparities in information flows by increasing aid for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries.

The Committee recommended that DPI be involved at the planning stage of UN peace-keeping and other field operations, through interdepartmental consultations and coordination, to ensure its capacity for the effective day-to-day functioning of the information component of such operations.

The Committee also encouraged exploring ways to improve worldwide access to UN radio as an important instrument in peace-keeping and development activities. DPI was to review its publications and proposals to ensure that they met an identifiable need, did not duplicate other publications, and were produced in a cost-effective manner.

In examining UN public information policies, as well as the progress achieved by the UN system in the field of information and communications, the Committee considered reports on activities of the UN information centres, DPI publications and efforts to promote a new information and communication order, aimed at fostering peace and international understanding. ■

THE VOICE OF UNESCO

Tolerance—Indispensable Requirement for Global Security

by Federico Mayor
Director-General of the
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Fifty years after signatories of the United Nations Charter resolved "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours", the international community is witnessing a dangerous escalation of intolerance and violence in every region of the world. This includes flagrant acts of xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, racism and anti-Semitism, as well as violence and discrimination against ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups, and individuals simply exercising their freedom of thought and expression. Wars of conquest between States are giving way to wars of intolerance within States, in a rush to find scapegoats for social ills in contexts of ideological and societal disintegration.

Mr. Mayor

Today's ugly hatreds often come walking arm in arm with familiar demons from the past: historical grudges and rivalries, sinister myths of ethnic or cultural purity or superiority, religious fanaticisms, fears grounded in ignorance, and the appetite for domination. What begins as prejudice ends as armed conflict, or perhaps never ends at all. In the worst cases, it leads to the unqualifiable abomination of genocide or its near equivalent.

Tolerance—whether we speak of it as a moral virtue, as a political obligation or as an indispensable requirement for global security—has become essential for our very survival. For the human family is one and many. Diversity is of our essence, and human communities live by a delicate network of interdependence as fragile as any ecosystem.

Tolerance is the responsibility that upholds human rights and democracy. It enables us to live together in peace with our differences, holding to our convictions while accepting that others adhere to theirs.

Perhaps the most potent threat to tolerance is social and economic inequality, extreme poverty and social exclusion. Even discrimination based on race, ethnic origin and gender often finds its source in these social injustices. That is why UNESCO, particularly in follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), has set its sights on building social integration through full implementation of civil and political, economic and social, individual and collective rights.

Regional meetings in the framework of the International Year for Tolerance, proclaimed by the General Assembly for observance in 1995, have yielded important political commitments in such countries as Brazil, India, Italy, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tunisia and Turkey, contributing toward the formulation of a Draft Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. This is to be submitted to the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference this fall—along with a proposal to declare the 16th of November an annual International Day of Tolerance—for eventual consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

Such a day would give a boost to tolerance education and pedagogy in school systems worldwide, as well as involving the media and non-governmental organizations in outreach to the general public. Other UNESCO projects include: a series of sound and light concerts by Goodwill Ambassador Jean-Michel Jarre; a major international meeting on intercultural dialogue hosted by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi in July; a young people's motorcycle expedition from Denver to Panama City, in cooperation with the BMW Foundation; establishment of UNESCO Prizes for tolerance promotion and children's literature in the service of tolerance; and new UNESCO chairs and publications in the field of tolerance promotion.

In addition, we will be focusing on special problems faced by the world's large urban areas—ever increasing in size and cultural diversity and, at the same time, socially, ethnically and culturally fragmented. The question of how to humanize the city will be placed before an international symposium at UNESCO headquarters—"*Towards the City of Solidarity and Citizenship*"—on 11 October 1995. Urban policies for action against intolerance will also be discussed at a public round table during the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II, Istanbul, June 1996)—"*Democracy and Citizenship in the 21st Century*

UNESCO

City"—with the participation of distinguished architects, urban specialists and mayors of large cities.

While we cannot of course hope to master the complex challenges posed by global manifestations of intolerance in the course of a single year, 1995 may serve as an alarm bell, a wake-up call to stir the world community to action. States must take the lead in placing tolerance and human rights at the heart of public policy. Overexposure and banalization of violence in sports and entertainment media must b scrutinized and critically reassessed, along with the biase of history curricula that reinforce enemy images and glori warfare.

In all, education and open dialogue, bringing togethe all social groups, are the crucial first steps in our journe toward a culture of tolerance—the foundation of a cultu of peace. ■

Year for Tolerance events

5-7 October — International Symposium for the Summing-up of Regional Meetings on Tolerance (Istanbul, Turkey).

15-17 October — International Symposium on "A Culture for Tolerance", including a public panel and special events for young people (Magdeburg, Germany).

13 November — A week of educational and cultural activities relating to tolerance and a culture of peace (Lome, Togo).

16 November — The fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the UNESCO Constitution will be marked by ceremonies in Paris, at the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference, including a discussion of the Year for Tolerance and the institution of an International Day of Tolerance.

16 November — Presentation of prizes in the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO World Photo Contest, on the theme of "Living Together".

16-18 December — Seminar on "Art, Tolerance and Intolerance" (Venice, Italy).

Launching of the Interactive exhibition, "Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Sarajevo".

Institution of the UNESCO Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance, and the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-violence.

Publication of 50,000 posters reproducing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in many languages, produced and distributed by the UNESCO Courier.

UNICEF

Universal participation in review of Child Summit goals urged

The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has urged all Governments to participate in the mid-decade review of progress towards the implementation of the commitments of the 1990 World Summit for Children.

All work done in gathering data for the review, the outcome of which is scheduled to be announced on 30 September 1996—the sixth anniversary of the Summit—should be standardized, coordinated with and shared by other UN agencies, and should result in improved and sustainable national capacity in gathering and analysing data on the situation of children, the Board decided.

An intensive region-by-region, country-by-country review conducted in mid-1994 had indicated that more than 100 developing nations, with over 90 per cent of the developing world's children, were making significant practical progress towards achieving the goals of the Summit.

At its annual session (New York, 22-26 May), the Board reaffirmed its strong and consistent commitment to Africa as the region of greatest need, and urged African Gover ments to develop dynamic plans of action in basic educ tion and allocate resources aimed at reversing the falli rates of enrolment.

In other action, the Board stressed the importance universal access to basic education for children a promotion of parents' knowledge and skills and of comm nity and family-based approaches for early childho development.

The Board also encouraged continued support throu national plans for universal access to water supply a environmental sanitation, as well as standardization of te nologies to minimize the cost of their installation, operati and maintenance.

Newly-appointed UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bella told the Board that the single most important message the session must be maintaining the momentum for childr that had been built up during the tenure of former Exe tive Director James P. Grant, who died on 28 January.

BOOKWATCH

The New Page

Federico Mayor
Brookfield, Vermont: Dartmouth Publishing, 1995
128 pp. $39.95 ISBN 1-85521-652-3

The United Nations at the Crossroads of Reform

Wendell Gordon
Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1994
285 pp. ISBN 1-56324-401-2

Cooperating for Peace: The Global Agenda for the 1990s and Beyond

Gareth Evans
St. Leonards, New South Wales, Australia:
Allen and Unwin, 1993
224 pp. $14.50 ISBN 1-86373-623-9

The golden anniversary of the United Nations is certainly an appropriate time to ponder its future course, even more so given the UN's post-cold war revitalization in world affairs. What individual attitudes must be developed and prevail for the UN to be able to fulfill its Charter goals? Can a fine line be struck between supranationality and national sovereignty? What globally shared interests should fall under the jurisdiction of the UN? What can be expected in future peace operations? Three complementary works provide individual, institutional and global perspectives on the UN, and a useful critique of its policy, structure and missions within a changing global security arena.

New Page author UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor writes that the twentieth century has been characterized by a "culture of war", a culture of violence taught and reinforced by contemporary sociological mores. Fortunately, the century's close has been witness to a new environment where State security is increasingly defined in non-military terms. A historically rare opportunity to develop a "culture of peace", based on a moral "culture of democracy", is therefore at hand.

In *The United Nations at the Crossroads of Reform*, scholar Wendell Gordon shares Senator William Fulbright's observation: "We do not think the UN is a failure. We think it has never been tried." Asserting that organizations evolve or become extinct, Gordon calls for a long overdue conference to review the UN Charter. Adopting an institutional focus, he methodically examines the Charter and offers recommendations for improvement.

Lastly, in *Cooperating for Peace*, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans employs case study analyses of UN responses to global crises, successfully capturing the complex nuances of UN field operations.

Mayor defines peace-building as a synergy resulting from simultaneous fiscal and social investment in basic and compulsory education, scientific investigation, communication, the production and sharing of knowledge and responsible civic action. For his part, Evans adds that building peace also entails government responsibility to meet societal needs for security, a decent standard of living and individual worth. Mayor's prose is engaging and all told, *The New Page* is convincingly supported.

Crossroads renders concrete reform proposals as a product of its critique. For instance, since one country, one vote fails to take population into account, Gordon proposes direct election of delegates to one house of a bicameral General Assembly. Additionally, the big power veto of the permanent Security Council members should be abolished, and Germany, Japan and India—the world's largest democracy—made permanent members. The fiscal woes wrought by the current and inadequate compulsory assessment system can be cured by earmarking a percentage of each country's military budget, coupled with a kind of corporate income tax, as twin revenue sources. The Intentional Court of Justice ought to be empowered with appellate jurisdiction over decisions rendered by national supreme courts. *Crossroads* is succinct in its arguments and at times quite hard hitting.

The strength of *Cooperating for Peace* lies in its three incisive chapters concerning peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace enforcement. Taken together, they mark a seminal contribution to the burgeoning literature on the subject. An increasing number of missions are of an "expanded" brand of peace-keeping having "multifunctional" connotations. Evans duly notes that peace enforcement is a reactive response to varying situations, from countering Iraq's cross-border invasion of Kuwait to supporting humanitarian objectives in Somalia, to bolstering peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia.

Evans admits that defining criteria for the employment of peace-keepers is not an exact science and is in fact an inherently incomplete process due to the varying nature of hostilities across a wide spectrum of conflict. There will "always be a strong ad hoc element" when it comes to the commitment of peace-keepers. Both UN and government policy makers would be well advised to consider the case studies in this cogent, lucid analysis.

Reviewed by Joseph A. Saffron

Special Edition of the Yearbook of the United Nations

United Nations Publications
Published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers,
The Hague, the Netherlands
$95.00 Sales No. E.95.I.50 ISBN 0-7923-3112-5

The UN Department of Public Information has prepared a special 50th anniversary edition of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, highlighting the major achievements and developments of the UN over the past five decades in the areas of peace-keeping, disarmament, economic and social development, human rights, decolonization and international law. The 50th anniversary *Yearbook* captures the history of the United Nations—from the development of a worldwide peace-keeping network to the series of world conferences held in the 1990s on important economic and social issues.

FEATURE

Asking the UN about the UN

A myriad of questions

by Elsa B. Endrst

Members of the UN Public Inquiries Unit at work.

The questions are many and sometimes offbeat. They ask how they can form their own countries (most with strange sounding names). They propose international days for friendship or animals. Some want to find a lost relative, address the General Assembly, or speak to the Secretary-General personally on what they call an important matter.

The daily calls and letters received by the United Nations deal with a myriad of questions and requests for information, ranging from world issues to somewhat offbeat suggestions. Answering those requests is the sensitive work of the Public Inquiries Unit (PIU) of the UN Department of Public Information.

Peace-keeping, peacemaking and social development accounted for the lion's share of the more than 42,000 inquiries processed in 1994. Thousands of additional queries were forwarded by other Departments. Developments in Rwanda, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Haiti were also the subject of numerous inquiries.

Madhumita Hosali, Chief of PIU, says that the most satisfying and challenging part of the Unit's work is that it serves as "the human interface" with members of the public, whether they are seeking information about the UN, criticizing it or expressing support.

"The staff has to always keep in mind that one visitor, one phone call or one letter can end up being the only contact that person has with this Organization and we have to try to ensure that it is a positive experience", she notes.

The Public Inquiries Unit is a resource centre primarily serving the North American public, providing answers to questions by mail, telephone and "walk-in" visitors. It also distributes general and detailed information on the work of the Organization through daily press releases, texts of UN resolutions and decisions, and various documents.

The staff spend much of their time explaining what the UN is able or not able to do. Inquiries have increased dramatically when the UN dominates the news, most recently through burgeoning peace-keeping operations.

Many specific requests come to the Unit from universities, libraries, various kinds of academic institutions, such as the Carter Center in Atlanta, and Congressmen's and Senators' offices. Overseas requests have also been received from such places as the House of Commons, on behalf of British Parliamentarians.

Among available materials are:

- *"What's the United Nations?"*, a guide for young and old alike, which is sure to clear up many misconceptions about the work of the Organization.
- An attractive wall-chart *"Peace-keeping: Answers at your Fingertips"* answers commonly asked questions about these operations and explains broad principles. "Although it does not give all the details of every operation, it does explain the broad perimeters", Ms. Hosali points out.
- In addition to human rights and the environment, a listing of UN members, giving the date of each country's entrance into the Organization and its most recent estimated population, is popular with students and scholars.
- A booklet entitled *"Girls: Challenging the World"*, which poses such questions, based on short stories, as: "Should Nalini get married at the age of 14?; Why has Wanjiku dropped out of school?"; and "What will Jenny do with her baby?" After each story, suggestions are made as to how these questions can be discussed in the classroom.
- A *"United Nations at 50"* brochure suggesting many ways for participation in global celebrations.

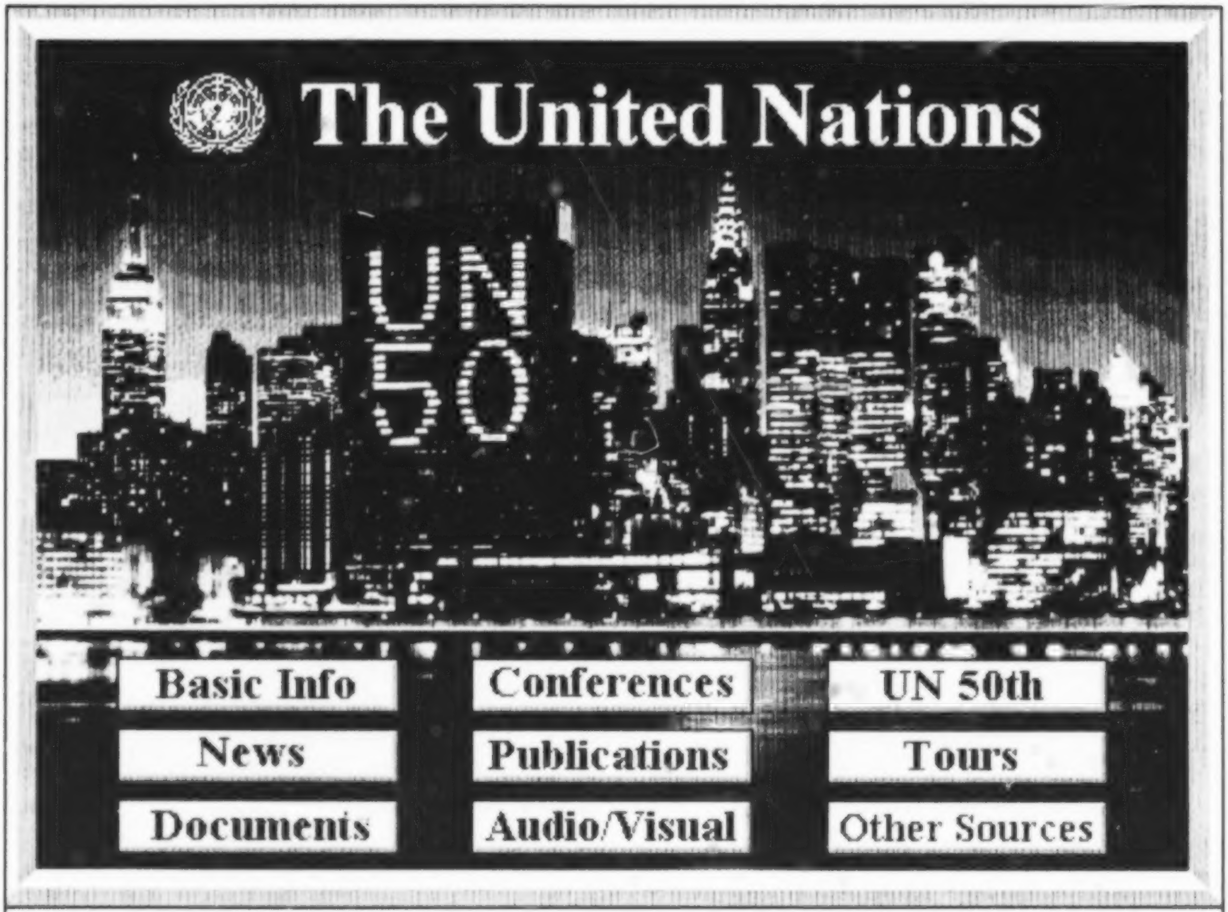
Other general information available through the PIU deals with a history of the UN building and its artwork on display; a listing of UN depository libraries, where UN documentation is available for consultation; a listing of publications of UN specialized agencies; a listing of the locations of headquarters of UN intergovernmental agencies; a paper on membership of principal UN organs in 1995; and an information guide for visitors to the UN.

In May, fifth grade students at the Sacred Heart School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, sent hand illustrated birthday cards addressed to the Secretary-General, wishing the UN a happy birthday.

"We are sending these birthday cards to show our support for all the work the UN does in settling world conflicts. We are studying very hard in order to find our own alternate ways to settle classroom disputes, and I have seen a great improvement in peaceful resolutions of these problems", wrote teacher Mrs. Patricia Coulter.

Ms. Hosali says: "Even if these days information is accessible electronically, there is still a need for the human interface which this office provides." ■

A listing of free basic publications of the UN and its specialized agencies is available by writing or calling the Public Inquiries Unit, Room GA-57, United Nations, New York 10017, Tel. (212) 963-4475. Additional copies will be provided subject to availability for a minimal charge.



http://www.un.org

The United Nations World Wide Web "home page" *(pictured above)* was launched on the Internet on 26 June, the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter.

The new electronic service will provide, with a simple click on a computer icon, a wide variety of instantly available information on the United Nations. This will include: the latest UN news, documents, press releases and daily highlights of events and proceedings; basic information about the UN and its family of specialized agencies and international organizations; biographical information and a photograph of the current Secretary-General; selected publications and promotional materials; a pictorial history of the UN; and an electronic tour of the main conference rooms and selected artworks displayed at UN Headquarters.

The UN web site is linked to the UN Development Programme gopher system and web sites of other UN family members. The UN Department of Public Information developed the new service in conjunction with the Electronic Services Division of the Office of Conference and Support Services.

Security Council observes war anniversary

The Security Council on 9 May observed a minute of silence to pay tribute to all the victims of the Second World War and recalled its "firm desire to make every possible effort to help mitigate the human suffering that results from war". In a presidential statement, the Council declared: "Fifty years ago, Europe saw the end of a war that afflicted the entire planet. It was primarily to preserve future generations from this scourge that the United Nations was created."

ILO opens office in South Africa

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Government of South Africa on 5 June signed an agreement to open an ILO Area Office in Pretoria. ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne said the action signalled the organization's commitment to Africa and its determination to assist in strengthening democratic institutions and fostering tripartism in the post-apartheid South Africa. The Office will also be responsible for ILO activities in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. South Africa rejoined the ILO in June 1994 after a 30-year absence because of its apartheid policies.

Sea Law Tribunal arrangements proceed

A meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (New York, 15-19 May) adopted its rules of procedure and asked the UN Secretariat to prepare a budget for the initial phase of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The Tribunal—the central mechanism of the compulsory dispute-settlement system set up by the Convention—is to be based in Hamburg, Germany. Its members will be elected in August 1996. Germany informed the meeting that the construction of the Tribunal's headquarters would be completed at the end of 1998.

New World Court judge elected

On 21 June, Luigi Ferrari Bravo of Italy was elected to the International Court of Justice to fill the seat left vacant by the 24 February death of Judge Roberto Ago, his compatriot. Mr. Ferrari Bravo—a professor of European Community law at the University of Rome and President of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law—has served as head of the Legal Service of the Italian Foreign Ministry and, since 1968, participated in many UN and other international conferences and events.

Pilgrimage by Libyans approved

The Security Council Committee monitoring the implementation of sanctions against Libya on 19 April approved a request from Egypt to permit 45 flights by Egyptair to carry 6,000 Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. The flights were to be monitored to ensure that they were undertaken only for the purpose of pilgrimage.

'Berlin Mandate' on climate change adopted

Ministers and other high-level officials from 116 State Parties to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting in Berlin, Germany (28 March-7 April), agreed to launch a new process to strengthen developed countries' commitments to combating climate change after the year 2000, possibly through the adoption of a new legal instrument. Some 870 delegates from 170 countries attended. In adopting the "Berlin Mandate", the Conference acknowledged that developed countries were not adequately committed to measures aimed at returning greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Under the Mandate, quantified objectives for limiting and reducing emissions within specified periods, such as 2005, 2010 and 2020, would be considered. No new commitments were introduced for developing countries, although existing ones were reaffirmed. The process should be completed by 1997 for action at the Conference's third session. It was also decided to locate the Convention's permanent secretariat in Bonn, Germany, starting in 1996.

Indian Ocean Committee: Wider participation wanted

Greater efforts and time were needed to develop a "focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability" in the Indian Ocean region, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean agreed at its 1995 session (27-30 June, New York). The participation in its work of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major users of the Indian Ocean was important for progress, the Committee reported. Chairman Herman Leonard de Silva of Sri Lanka was asked to pursue his dialogue with France, the United Kingdom and the United States—countries which had withdrawn from the Committee's deliberations in 1989.

Mekong basin development agreed by four nations

A landmark agreement to promote the sound use and conservation of the Mekong River basin area was signed on 5 April by Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. Under it, an autonomous intergovernmental River Commission will develop policies that promote sustainable development and conservation of the River basin's natural resources, particularly in the areas of irrigation, fisheries, energy and tourism. The agreement, supported by the UN Development Programme, accords freedom of navigation throughout the mainstream of the Mekong River regardless of territorial boundaries, and stipulates that China and Myanmar could become future members.

UNDP Board stresses poverty elimination

The elimination of poverty should be the "overriding priority" of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), its Executive Board declared at its annual session (5-16 June, New York). The Board approved for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) new core programme areas of reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, population, and development strategies and advocacy.

Board reviews illicit drugs situation

Identifying weaknesses in the international drug control system was the main focus of work of the International Narcotics Control Board at its fifty-eighth session (8-19 May, Vienna). The Board also reviewed how Governments were implementing the three main international drug control treaties: the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Also discussed were: problems caused by specific drugs, on national and international levels, as well as possible countermeasures; supply and demand for opiates for medical and scientific needs; and supervision of licit production, manufacture and trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

UNCITRAL completes draft convention

A draft convention on independent bank guarantees and standby letters of credit—designed to establish uniform rules to prevent fraudulent or abusive payment demands under such guarantees, thus removing a persistent obstacle to international trade—was completed by the 36-member UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), as it ended its twenty-eighth session (2-26 May, Vienna). The text was to be submitted to the General Assembly for possible adoption.

WHO Assembly acts on ethics, nutrition, other issues

The promotion of ethical practices in the human reproduction field to protect the health and human rights of individuals in different social and cultural settings was among the concerns of the forty-eighth World Health Assembly (Geneva, 1-12 May)—the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO). Among other decisions, the Assembly recognized that disaster reduction was an integral part of sustainable development, asked for priority for health and nutrition in humanitarian assistance programmes, and called for strengthened surveillance of infectious diseases.

Cambodia human rights centre to continue operations

UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding, while in Cambodia on 4 May, obtained the approval of the country's two Prime Ministers for the continued operation of the UN Centre for Human Rights in Phnom Penh. Earlier, the Cambodian Government had asked that the Centre be closed.

Human rights observance assessed

Four human rights expert bodies continued to review reports from States parties on their implementation of major international instruments: the 18-member Human Rights Committee, at its 53rd session (20 March-7 April, New York); the 10-member Committee Against Torture, at its 14th session (24 April-5 May, Geneva); the 18-member Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its 12th session (1-19 May, Geneva) and the ninth session (22 May-9 June, Geneva) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

STAMP CORNER

A philatelic tribute to UN50

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) on 24 October will issue three sets of stamps in observance of the celebration of the world Organization's fiftieth anniversary in 1995. The vertical sheets of 12 stamps, in denominations of United States cents and 0.30 and 3 Swiss Francs, were designed by Dutch artist Ben Verkaaik to commemorate the ratification of the UN Charter. The stamps will be available as of 24 October at UN Headquarters in New York, the Palais des Nations in Geneva and the Vienna International Centre. The October issue will be the third in a series commemorating the UN's 50th anniversary.

United Nations
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50
We the Peoples of the United Nations...
United for a Better World

COMING UP

A preview of some important UN conferences and events

October-December 1995

New York

22–24 **October**	Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly for the Fiftie Anniversary of the United Nations
27 **November** – 1 **December**	Meeting of the States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
29 **November**	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
	Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with t Palestinian People
November	UN Pledging Conference for Development Activities
1–2 **December**	Disarmament Commission, organizational session

Geneva

16–20 **October**	UNHCR—Executive Committee, 46th session
16 **October** – 3 **November**	Human Rights Committee, 55th session
30 **October** – 17 **November**	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 10th session
13–24 **November**	Committee Against Torture, 15th session
20 **November** - 15 **December**	Conference on Disarmament—Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ba inter-sessional meetings
29 **November**	States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 5th meeting

Vienna

30 **October** – 16 **November**	International Narcotics Control Board, 59th session
4–8 **December**	UNIDO—General Conference, 6th session
12 **December**	IAEA—Board of Governors

Other locations

19 **October** – 1 **November**	FAO—Conference, 28th session, Rome
25 **October** - 16 **November**	UNESCO—General Conference, 28th session, Paris
13–24 **November**	IMO—Assembly, London

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WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

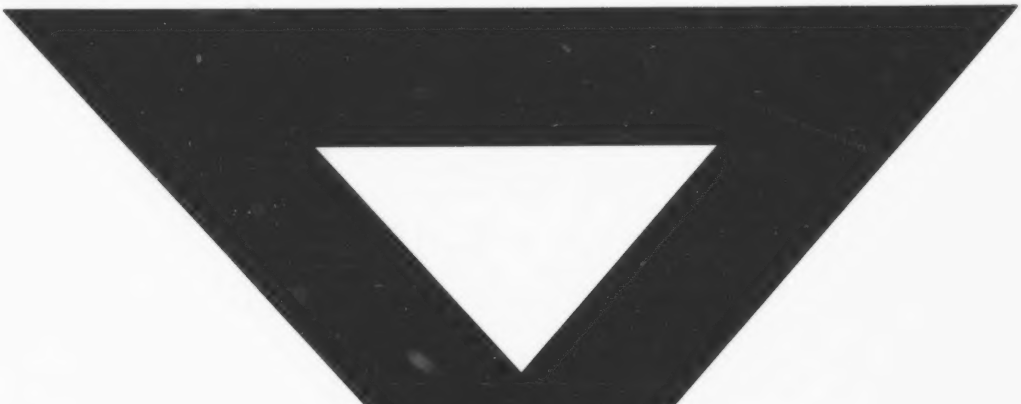
AND FOR THESE ENDS

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

- Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

Signed on 26 June 1945
San Francisco

United Nations
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